

# Egyptian



# KEY

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3

No. 4

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## STATEMENT OF CONDITION

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AT THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, MARCH 27, 1951

## RESOURCES

Cash and Due from Banks	\$ 773,230.60
U. S. Government Securities	3,708,131.46
Other Bonds and Securities	583,493.83
Loans and Discounts	1,893,060.47
Banking House, Furniture and Fixtures	43,065.00

TOTAL \$7,090,981.36

## LIABILITIES

Capital Stock	\$ 100,000.00
Surplus	100,000.00
Undivided Profits	46,657.53
Reserve Accounts	302,179.64
Deposits	6,542,144.19

TOTAL \$7,090,981.36

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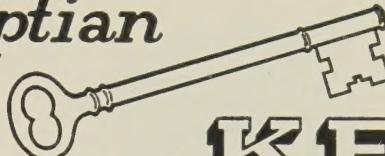
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# Egyptian



# KEY

OPENS THE DOORS OF SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

Volume 3, Number 4

September, 1951

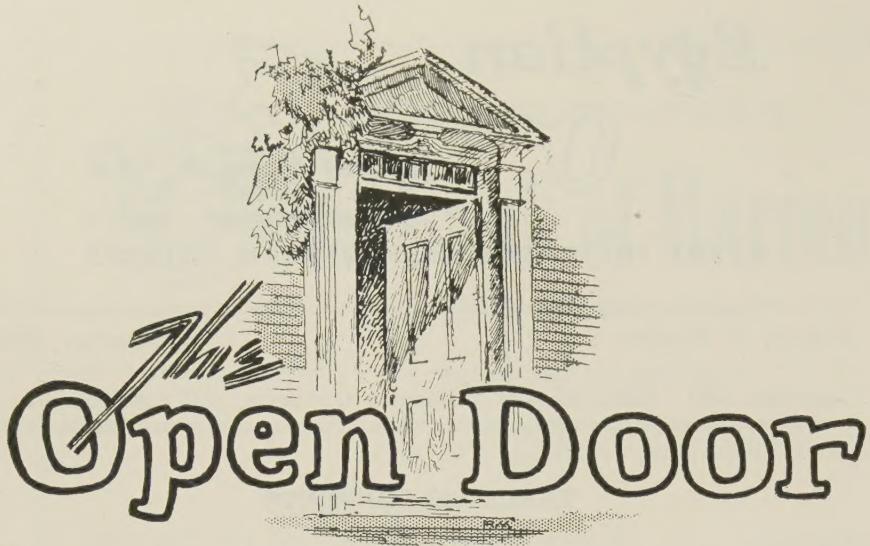
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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

The Open Door .....	2
Key Book Shelf .....	7
Southern Hospitality .....	14
Rhythm of the Rows, by Will Griffith .....	16
Everybody's Doing It .....	17
I'm in a Hurry, by Douglas E. Lawson .....	18
Non Omnis Moriar, by Douglas E. Lawson .....	18
Floating Circuses, by Harold E. Briggs .....	19
Road to Relaxation .....	24
Summer Time in Egypt .....	25
Humma Memorial Book Shelf, by Corrola Ruggles .....	26
Egyptian Starlight—XII—Frances Kirkwood Crane .....	27
A Partnership—Illinois Central and Egypt .....	29
Idols of Egypt—XVI—Zadok Casey, by N. W. Draper .....	35
Man-Made Mountains, by Lorraine Waters .....	43
Little Egypt after Fifty-Seven Years, by David V. Felts .....	47
Egyptorials .....	48

Please send change of address to EGYPTIAN KEY, Carbondale, Illinois, giving your old address together with your new address. Copies of the KEY mailed to your old address will not be forwarded by the Post Office unless extra postage is sent to the Post Office by the subscriber. Be sure of getting your magazines promptly and save the extra expense by notifying the EGYPTIAN KEY.

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Dear Mrs. Griffith:

I was in a Bloomington hospital for eye surgery at the time of Will Griffith's death. I should have written to you when I got back in circulation to express my sorrow and my sympathy to you.

I have just read your Memorial Edition, the fine tributes to Will, to Colonel Trigg and to Doctor Steagall. It is an excellent issue.

Mr. Frank M. Lindsay, the president of Decatur Newspapers, Inc., asked me to express his sympathy in your loss and to tell you that your most recent EGYPTIAN KEY is "a most creditable piece of work." Mr. Lindsay, Mr. F. W. Schaub, our vice-president and I were guests on a Greater Egypt Association tour at the time of the Saline County Centennial and had dinner at Harrisburg. You and Will were our hosts on that occasion and we had a most enjoyable time.

I enjoy the KEY because I am a native of Marion and spent many pleasant boyhood days in the rough country of Southern Illinois that has become a tourist attraction.

David V. Felts  
Editor Editorial Page  
The Herald, Decatur, Illinois

Thank you for sending us a copy of Vol. III, No. 3, of EGYPTIAN KEY, Page 15 is open before me as I endeavor to express our regret that you are now alone in your great service to "EGYPT." As soon as I was in the house on my return from a recent field trip, Frieda told me to look at the magazine on our radio table.

The Mathers availed themselves so fully of the bountiful hospitality offered us by you and Will, we seemingly giving little or nothing in return, that it gives me that "too late" feeling each time I recall your combined generosity.

I am sure it softened your grief to know that so many shared a part of it with you. Should you decide that a trip to new surroundings will

help in accomplishing the adjustments which may still face you, consider a visit to Florida and accept our home as your center of operations. We do not have large peaches like the Egyptian variety which you and Will were so justly proud of; but our citrus might be a suitable substitute and would at least make those peaches taste better when you returned to them.

Please accept our sincere, but inadequate, expression of sympathy in your bereavement. Our all too brief sojourn in Egypt had you and Will as a nucleus. Our greatest good fortune while I was stationed in Illinois was the day Jim Bristow advised me to call on Will and Katherine Griffith.

We wish you every happiness and success which the scars of May 24, 1950, will permit; regretting that it was impossible for us to express our sympathy and do what little we could to help you through your shock and sorrow back in May, when you needed it most.

Deane Mathers  
U. S. Dept. of Forestry  
Ocala, Florida

A short time ago I learned with much sorrow of the death of your husband.

As you probably remember, Will and I began our acquaintance by differing sharply and often vigorously on a number of matters. But then when each of us found out the sincerity of the other's interest in the future of Southern Illinois, we became very good friends. I remember the first occasions when you and Will were with us on various tours of Southern Illinois. I believe the last was when we all went to Ferne Clyffe.

One of my greatest regrets in leaving Illinois was that I would not be in a position to do very much about the many things which Will and I agreed could be done and should be done in that beautiful area of your State. When the Illi-

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nois Area Redevelopment Commission was established I felt that we had made a beginning, but when that body collapsed I felt that we had suffered a serious set-back.

An even greater set-back to the cause of Southern Illinois has been the passing of Will. I only hope that others will come forward and carry on his work with the same enthusiasm, ability and intelligence which he always displayed. I know that you will continue your own interest and I know how effective that has been in the past. It is my earnest wish that when we meet again we can see many of our hopes and plans for Southern Illinois being brought into being.

You have my deepest sympathy on your loss of a very great guy.

Raymond Hilliard  
New York 13, N. Y.

I certainly am in favor of perpetuation of the EGYPTIAN KEY. I met your husband just once. Dr. Steagall took me to his office as I was deeply interested in anything of interest in Southern Illinois.

I was a warm friend of Dr. Steagall and her sister, Mrs. Hodge, and Bill Rominger was from Shelbyville, my old home town. He wrote a book giving the history of the boys from Shelby County, World War I. I lost one brother in that war and another one died later—service connected. This book we prize highly.

It must be deeply satisfying to you to carry on the work so ably begun by your beloved husband.

Miss Mabel E. Good  
Galesburg State Research Hospital  
Galesburg, Illinois

This morning I received a letter stating that you were going to start to publish that interesting magazine again with so much interesting history of Southern Illinois. Having been born and raised in Southern Illinois I have always enjoyed reading it so much.

Mrs. William C. Halbert  
Centralia, Illinois

I am indeed pleased to receive a copy of the new Memorial Edition of the EGYPTIAN KEY, which is so appropriate and well done.

I want to congratulate you upon your courage in making it possible. Knowing your great loss and sorrow, it must have been hard to carry on. But with ability and wonderful personality as you have, we can look forward to many more interesting and valuable numbers.

A. B. Vancil  
Carbondale, Illinois

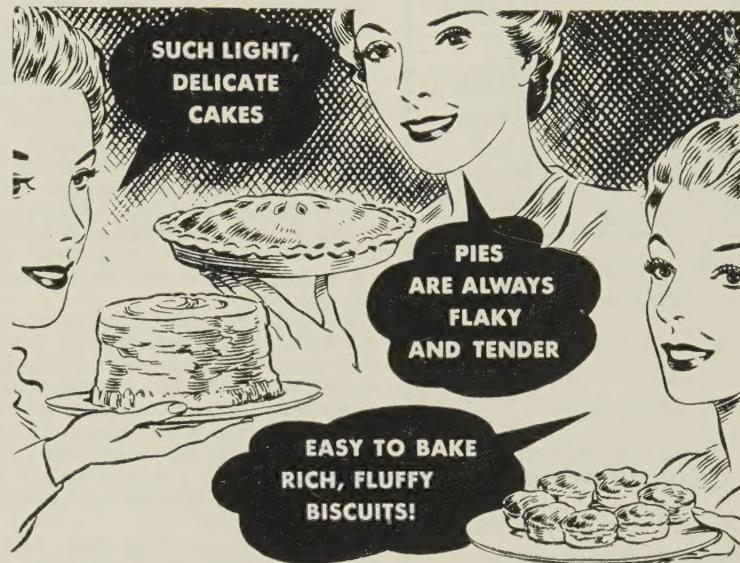
Who I am is an easy question to answer. As the world wags I am just another one of the many. My husband has been and still is the best teacher in Indiana. He is now beginning his sixty-first year as a

public school teacher, twenty of which was served as principal of the Marion Indiana High school. So far as I am concerned my teaching career was brief on account of matrimony, the rearing of five children, all college people, and the monotonous round that goes with this job.

Since the children are independent of us and we have time for our own particular line of thought we have become involved in the interesting subject of genealogy, not as a commercial venture but to get our own lines straightened out.

I was born in Egypt, that is, in Clay City south of the then Balti-

more and Ohio Railroad, it was some time ago but I still consider myself a Sucker. My mother was a Bothwell and that line is of no concern now for the history of that family has been kept as well as the Potter line. Mamma's maternal line is about as clear as mud and that of course is the interesting one. In trying to clear this we have spent some time in Southern Illinois and Eastern Tennessee. The line which is so intriguing is that of the Mabrys. Benjamin Mabry son of Seth, came with most of his children who were then grown, to Wayne County and some of them entered land. One



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was in the Seminole War, one in the Mexican and I think William but the records say William H. and ours was William M. In 1852, we presume, Benjamin went to Gallatin Co. and we find some court records of him there at Shawneetown. He lived and had a business in Omaha, dying there in 1871. So far as I can discover there is no history of the place before 1871 when the railroad began operation. We have searched some of the cemeteries but find no stone marking his grave or that of his wife.

Tradition in the family tells of Benjamin being sent to Cape Girardeau as a missionary to the Shawnee Indians when only 18 by the Methodist church. He returned to Lebanon, Tennessee with his young wife, reared a family, was sheriff of Wilson County, and in the 40's came to Illinois. He was licensed to preach and Gallatin county has many marriage records made by him. The Wayne County Court house burned in 1885 and of course I can get no help there. I thought the KEY might at some time have an article that would be helpful in my search.

My paternal side is bound up with the history of Pike County, Illinois, but again a burnt court-house prevents any definite history being compiled. Family records are not available. Since it takes both time and money for this work and I have little of either, we just forget this side of what might be very interesting family data.

I have been collecting records for the D.A.R. and have eight volumes in the National Library of this organization: one of marriage records of Grant County, Indiana; one of Wills; two of Cemetery records; two of Civil War Diaries and Letters; one of old records found in the Methodist Church; and one of obituaries culled from the files of the county papers. I have the material for another volume of Mexican War data and the remainder of the Civil War letters, also Bible Records and old letters and papers. This keeps me busy and may at some time be worth something to the worker in research. I only hope for time and energy to complete the work I have started.

Thank you and I hope I have not been boresome.

Agnes Lowsdale Kendall  
Marion, Indiana

Thank you so much for the copy of the KEY with Frank Thompson's picture in it. He looks so happy, as he always was when he was out of doors, it made me feel happy, too. I shall like to keep it with my other momentos of him.

The Memorial Edition is a very fine magazine, and I know I will re-read it many times. I had not known that your husband had left you so recently, and I think you are very brave to carry through such a

difficult work so soon—though work is the best help to adjustment always. There would have been a great satisfaction, too, in doing this for him, knowing it is the kind of memorial he would like.

The article about Miss Mary Steagall was very good. I knew her and most of her family, when I was a child and young girl. Her sister, Mrs. Hodge, was a friend of mine, though much older. Mrs. Hodge's husband, John R. Hodge, was once my teacher, and he was County Superintendent of Schools at the time of his death. He gave me my teacher's certificate when I was eighteen, just as I was starting to teach in the Golconda Schools, and when he was sick just before his death. I had their son, Reed, now Lt. Gen. John R. Hodge, in the third grade when I taught that class.

Miss Mary used to be one of the instructors in the teachers' institutes in Pope County, which I attended every year from the time I was in the seventh grade, as an interested observer. I admired her very much, though sometimes I was a bit in awe of her, she seemed so clever. You can see that this issue brought a flood of reminiscences to me, as well as many interesting things that were new. It was a fine job, and I congratulate you.

Fadette T. Gossard  
North Hollywood, Cal.

Ever since you were in the office and left me three copies of your excellent magazine I've been trying to find a moment to thank you for your call, your leaving sample copies, and to compliment you on the excellence of your product, editorially as well as mechanically.

I took the magazines home with me and spent almost an entire evening going over them. I found much of interest and am putting the issues in our reference library, and herewith enclosing \$1.50 for more issues as I want them to read as well as file for the southern Illinois information and history glimpses with which most of us are not familiar.

Incidentally, am I wrong in assuming that we might clip or rewrite some of your matter with full credit of course? Some of it particularly we might wish to use in our 1953 City Centennial Edition.

Verne E. Joy  
Editor, Centralia Sentinel

When I came home from a trip, I found the Memorial Edition of the KEY. I was shocked and saddened by Mr. Griffith's death. What a great loss to you and all "Egypt."

I shall never forget how kind you and Mr. Griffith were to me and the other members of the Illinois Federation of Women's Club on the Southern Illinois tour of 1948.

Margaret Taylor  
Minneapolis 10, Minn.

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If I hadn't read the back issue of the EGYPTIAN KEY I never would have known what a wonderful, unselfish man your late husband, Mr. Will Griffith really was. I learned this by reading some of his editorials.

What a tireless worker, and loyal supporter for Southern Illinois, of which we have too few.

I was interested in the article by James O'Neil; Egypt in the Spring, where he so beautifully and vividly described the Ozarks. He did more in prose than most of us are able to do in poetry.

I sincerely hope that you are soon able to surmount all your difficulties, whatever they may be, and give us another edition of your excellent magazine.

Arlene W. Grisham  
Joliet, Illinois

After reading a complimentary copy of the KEY received yesterday, besides being thankful to the donor, and reading the wonderful article on Dr. Steagall, I felt it a duty to show my appreciation.

Also wish to say that, as you well know, I was a very close friend to both Col. Trigg and Mr. Griffith, and having also made the race with Teddy and the rest of the lamented Bull Moosers, with like experience as the Doctor, namely a good race but not enough votes—got the nomination for the Legislature all right, but of course that was far as I got. Still I shall always cherish the wonderful time we had while on several of our trips, as well as the close relations with the other candidates, especially Teddy Robins and Medill McCormick. I had several letters from Medill's wife when she was a candidate for her husband's place.

So with kind personal regards and well wishes, I beg to remain, as ever, a Still-Believer in the "Ozarkers."

Emil Andris  
Marion, Illinois

I have just received the Memorial edition of the EGYPTIAN KEY, and I think it is very nice.

I always think of Will Griffith as a man of vision, an excellent writer, and a good judge of the many things to be done.

I think this edition brings out many of the interesting details of his life, of which I know you are justly proud. His passing will be felt by many of his friends for a long time to come.

Ray Hubbs  
Division of Parks and Memorials  
Springfield, Illinois

I am enclosing my check for \$1.85, the subscription for six issues and one extra copy of the memorial edition. I am especially interested in the Kornthal Church write-up. I want to send it to a friend.

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There are distinctive festivals and celebrations that are featured annually in many Egyptian communities that would attract if widely publicized, very few of which are more colorful in character than the county fairs where old fashioned horse racing is a feature, where anybody looking for local color would find a full rainbow of it.

To attract industry, there must first be an aggressive citizenry, dedicated to the purpose of providing those facilities that industry requires, adequate and cheap water, power, fuel, and transportation.

Having seen this community grow from a straggling country town of a few thousand inhabitants, scattered over the whole lower end of the San Fernando Valley, to an industrial city of almost 100,000, I know that it took great foresight, and lots of planning to accomplish it.

My copies of the EGYPTIAN KEY are passed around and have quite a circle of readers here in Southern California, most of whom once lived in Southern Illinois.

L. T. Haseltine  
Burbank, California

Ed. Note: What's the matter?  
Can't they afford their own copies?

Three years ago some friend called since read every copy and of each I have found myself saying 'This is the finest copy yet.' I have said this of the current number.

John Stevenson's group of Practice Teachers included many of those acquaintances of previous years with whom I was in school. I would have sworn that we did not look like that, excepting Beckmeyer, Jordon and wife, Grace Brandon, Fay Curtis and Willifred Forsythe whom we affectionately called Billie, and several others whom I remember to have looked that way.

I left school in the spring of 1903 because I had entered the ministry in spite of Dr. Parkinson's warning, "I have seen many good teachers made into poor preachers." I was for three years the first student there who pastored out-lying churches over the week ends. Tom Haney of the General Baptist followed in a few years. Now there are numbers. I took everything Shryock and Allen offered and found no better teachers than they in Seminary even though we had Oratory under the famous Connock, the author of the text Shryock used.

I am now, in retirement, pastoring the Shiloh Methodist Church near Belleville which is the oldest Methodist Church in continuous operation west of the Alleghany Mountains. It was founded in 1807 by William McKendree with many famous names of subsequent history among its early members. Have you had its story in the Key?

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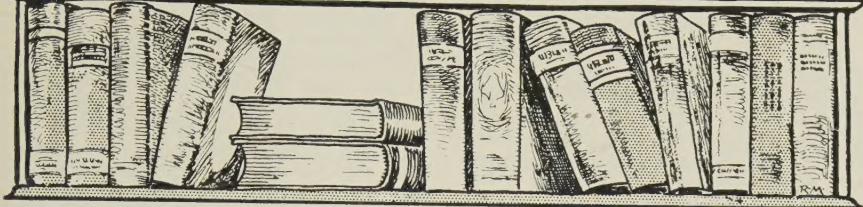
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# KEY BOOK SHELF



Both Indiana and Ohio claim to have produced an unusual number of authors. Illinois can leave out Chicago and still match its sister states. Of that portion called Egypt we may be justly proud. During the past year our local authors have been productive.

To the delight of youngsters in particular and adults in general Mae Trovillion Smith, the author of **Famous Dogs of Famous People**, has followed that book with **Famous Pets of Famous People**. The pets range from cockatoos to cows, and the famous people from British royalty to a present day American business man. Famous persons mean more to anyone when he knows personal stories about them. Mrs. Smith has designed this book especially to help young readers to know these persons more intimately and vividly through their pets.

These are not fictitious legends, the stories are based on facts obtained through much research, and are fascinatingly told.

Published by Dodd, Mead & Co., New York. \$2.50.

Two unique books have been written, printed on a 5x8 Eureka press, by Edvar L. Dukes, historian and curator of the Edwards County Historical Museum, Albion, Illinois. They are unique because even the type was hand set and the printing done in the author's own work shop. They are **Yester Years in Edwards County, Illinois**, in two volumes; collectors' items. Of the first edition of Volume I there were only 50 printed, in 1945.

Volume I is the story of the arrival of the English settlers and of the area, between 1818 and 1825, closing with the death of Morris Birkbeck. Volume II covers the period between 1825 and 1862, and closes with the death of George Flower. Both are well illustrated. The text has been gleaned by many years of handling county records, old family letters and from interviews with old settlers' descendants. Both books are very interesting reading. The author says of his work, "A simple tale, for simple people, compiled by a simple writer."

Mr. Dukes has made the preservation of Edwards county history his life work. He and his wife live in

the old Emerson homestead that is now the property of the Historical Society, and houses its museum of historical keepsakes.

Volume I is now in its second edition, Volume II, in its first. They may be had directly from the author, E. L. Dukes, 212 West Main Street, Albion, Illinois.

We hope for a trilogy, the third volume to be of Civil War material.

To people in this area Marie Campbell's most recent book will be of interest, for she is a child of Southern Illinois, reared near Tamms and educated at S. I. U.

Miss Campbell does not write of Southern Illinois, however, but of her adopted South-land. Her first book, **Cloud-Walking**, is concerned with Kentucky mountain people; her second, **Folks Do Get Born**, is a non-fiction volume on the work of colored midwives in the South; the present book deals with plantation life in Alabama during the Civil War and the years immediately following.

The book is written from an interesting point of view, one that this writer has not met before—namely, that of a slave family loyal to the white family to whom they belong. The mother of this slave family, Katie Bess, who cooks for her mistress, is Miss Campbell's central character. She reaches almost heroic proportions when circumstances demand that she take over the mothering of the white family as well as her own. Katie Bess is a bit too noble to be convincing and is therefore not so interesting as some of the minor Negro characters and the plantation family's Aunt Doll, a mere sketch, which is both convincing and delightfully colorful.

As a story, **A House with Stairs** is pleasant; but as a novel, it lacks structure. A little over half through, the story almost stops, giving place to a study of post-war conditions in the South based on the author's research in local newspapers of the period. It is good material, but it is not fused with the story.

On the whole, the writer finds the present book somewhat inferior to **Cloud-Walking**. It would seem that Miss Campbell's first-hand knowledge of Kentucky mountain life pro-

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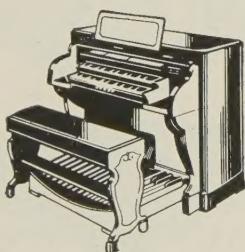
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duced a better work than did her second-hand knowledge of plantation life during the Civil War. As was said above, however, the book is entertaining, and it presents plantation life from an interesting point of view.

Rinehart & Company, N. Y. \$2.50

Willard J. Freiderich in collaboration with John H. Fraser, has written **Scenery Design for the Amateur Stage**. The book is planned especially for little theatres, community playhouses, church players and semi-professional groups. Into a book, useable by the layman, has been put the type of instruction, art design and construction methods, so much needed. It is worthwhile to both the student and the dabbler in theatricals. The book is well illustrated with drawings and photographs.

Of John H. Fraser, we have no knowledge, except that he heads the art department of Marietta College. The co-author, who is an Egyptian, we feel knows his subject.

Born at Summerfield, Illinois, April 6, 1916, Willard J. Freiderich obtained his early education in the schools of Mascoutah and was graduated from high school there in 1934. During the summer of 1936 he held a Harrison Fellowship in Drama at the National Training Base of the Little Theatre Movement, Priscilla Beach, Massachusetts.

Freiderich received his Bachelor of Arts degree, **Magna cum Laude**, from McKendree College in 1938. He was a Fellow at University of Illinois, 1938-1940, receiving his Masters there in 1939. 1940-41 found him with a Penfield Fellowship at New York University and the summer of 1943 at Northwestern University.

Later he taught at University of Illinois and now heads the departments of Speech and Drama at Marietta College.

Mrs. Freiderich is Elizabeth Phillips, daughter of Mrs. M. Phillips of Lebanon, Illinois. The next generation is a son, Blair, age 9, and a daughter, Julie Ann, age 6.

Mr. Freiderich writes the KEY that he is working on another book which he hopes to finish this summer. Dean Ruth Wilcox of Marietta, is assisting. The subject is **The Teaching of Speech and Drama**.

**Scenery Design for the Amateur Stage** is published by the MacMillan Company, New York. \$3.75.

One of the most interesting books of the year is the volume by Carlton J. Corliss called **Main Line of Mid-America**. This is the history of the Illinois Central Railroad written and published to celebrate the centennial of the road. From the Introduction through its 464 pages the book is fascinating to a student of our Nation's history and worth the reading to anyone.

From its inception the railroad

has made its impress upon our Nation and played a huge part in its progress. Here is the story of inspiration and foresightedness brought to the mind of Captain Alexander Jenkins of Murphysboro, Illinois, as a result of the terrain and weather conditions that had to be overcome during the year of the Black Hawk War. "When the general assembly convened at Vandalia in the fall of 1832 he was elected speaker of the house. His startling proposal of a railroad hundreds of miles in length aroused wide-spread interest, for at that time there were less than three hundred miles of railroad in the New World and there was not a railroad or locomotive within hundreds of miles of Illinois."

Among the supporters of Jenkins' Central Railroad project was Colonel Sidney Breese, a lawyer from Kaskaskia, whose job it had been, in 1820 to move the infant State's possessions by ox team from Kaskaskia to Vandalia. Another was Zadok Casey, a backwoods preacher who had abandoned the pulpit for the stump and was then representing Illinois in Congress.

**Main Line of Mid-America** recounts the progress of transportation from the days of covered wagons to the streamlined trains of today. Across its pages walk such men as Black Hawk, Daniel Webster, Jefferson Davis, Stephen A. Douglas, Abraham Lincoln, Mark Twain and hundreds of others of greater or lesser fame, who aided in the development.

This history proves, that Egypt can claim to be the mother of the Illinois Central Railroad as well as of our State. Freight is the wage earner of any railway. Egypt's coal and fruit paid many of the bills. In chapter 28, "From Small Beginnings," the story of Parker Earle at Cobden is told and in many other spots throughout the book there are items of special interest to Southern Illinois.

**Main Line of Mid-America** is thoroughly indexed. Published by Creative Age Press, New York. \$4.75.

**Building Honolulu, a Century of Community Service** by Clarence L. Hodge and Peggy Ferris, is of great interest to citizens of Egypt. Most persons are fascinated by Honolulu and, whether they ever get there or not, want to know about the place. The author of this history of Honolulu is the son of Mrs. Irene Hodge and his wife is the daughter of Professor and Mrs. Fount Warren, all of Carbondale, Illinois.

Since Hodge for many years has been director of the Honolulu Chamber of Commerce, he is well grounded to prepare such a volume as this. The fourteen chapters, beginning with the excitement when the report of California's gold discovery reached Hawaii, June 17, 1848, were

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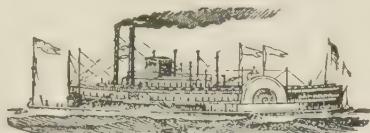
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first printed as a series of stories in **The Hawaii Weekly** section of the **Honolulu Advertiser**. The illustrations are by Jerry Chong. The book carries many interesting details of coin and commercial development, facts, figures, dates and individuals. Chamber of Commerce of Honolulu, 1950. \$3.50.

Teach your children to love history by giving them good historical fiction to read. Natalie Belting's **Pierre of Kaskaskia** is the story of how the village which became Illinois' first capital, got its church bell, often called the "Liberty bell of the Mid-West." There is enough adventure and suspense in the story to hold any reader, ten years old and up.

Miss Belting is a professor of history at the University of Illinois. Bobbs Merrill, Indianapolis. \$2.00.

Dr. Edwin O. Reischauer is the son of Dr. A. K. Reischauer who was born and reared in Union County and who got his first training at Kornthal Parochial school and Union Academy at Anna. He is a nephew of Ed Reischauer of Jonesboro.

The book, **The United States and Japan**, by Dr. Edwin O. Reischauer has received high praise from the Eastern Press. From the New York Herald-Tribune in a four-column comment, we quote in part: "The Editors of the Foreign library made a happy choice when they asked Dr. Reischauer to write the volume on the United States and Japan. He has an unusually wide knowledge of Japanese history and of modern Japanese life and he has also during recent years, been closely acquainted with the development of American policy toward Japan. He has, moreover, a gift of exposition in clear language, and this is perhaps a qualification more important than weight of learning for describing things that are unfamiliar to the general reader."

Edwin O. Reischauer never minimizes the difficulty of our relations with Japan. At times this solid and informative book makes an amicable adjustment seem all but impossible in our lifetime. This latest addition to the shelf of the American Foreign policy library is an excellent companion to John Fairbank's **The United States and China**. Both authors are old Far East hands. Mr. Reischauer who served as an expert on Japan in the State Department during World War II has held important posts in that country during the occupation. Born in Tokyo, he grew up in Japan, speaks and reads Japanese. For five years he was a Travelling Fellow in the Harvard-Yenching institute. At present he is professor of Far Eastern languages at Harvard.

Published by Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Mass. \$4.00.

Inglis Fletcher has become a chronicler of North Carolina by her ancestral roots—not by her birthplace which is Alton, Illinois. At college age she attended Washington University, School of Fine Arts, St. Louis. She spent several years in California at Huntington Library, doing research concerning her Albemarle ancestors. After years of western life and much traveling, Mrs. Fletcher moved in 1944 with her family to the old Bandon Plantation on the Chowan River, near Edenton, in North Carolina.

The novelist's first casual interest in her Carolina kinsfolk grew into a thorough study of North Carolina Colonial records where repeated names—in old deeds, wills, histories, or in old musty papers containing records of law suits or land grants—took on personalities in Mrs. Fletcher's keen imagination and later became people in her designed series of novels woven about the history of North Carolina.

Authenticity, for her novel's background, urged the writer to go to England and there to penetrate the British Museum; also she resided at Coddington Court in Herefordshire where Richard Monington was Lord of the Manor before his reversal of fortune as a royalist to become indentured as a slave in the New World. Since relatively little fiction has been produced concerning the exciting Cromwellian period in America, and particularly that time involving the colonization of North Carolina, more searching for authentic background followed through old documents in the Library of Congress as well as at Williamsburg, at William and Mary college, and at Edenton.

With her abundance of facts and fancies, Inglis Fletcher is a skillful story teller in **Bennett's Welcome** when she quickly arouses interest with commotion about an important part of the early American quest for freedom in the New World—a world where Richard Monington discovered man's affinity to God.

There is drama with terrific scenes of action, of decision, of romance—all hinging upon the strife in the Old World and in the New World between Cavalier and Roundhead. Cook Ellie's remark at Coddington Manor in 1651 is poignant even now: "Peace in these times of war? We have a saying in the West Country that peace is an unnatural temporary condition between wars."

One's suspense is always anxious because of such episodes as the "royal miracle" of Charles Stuart's escape, coinciding with his philosophy and faith in his own protection, or, suspense in the flight, to the weird sound of voodoo drums, of Tamar; or, in the duel between Nicholas Holder and Richard Monington to settle Holder's acts of trespassing. Both story and scene

hurry from England with the defeat of Charles II to the James River with its great plantations and then on to the rich lands of Albemarle Sound. Here are born the principles of American democracy—freedom for all—American pride; for Richard Monington's heart was adamant with desire to meet the challenge of the future and to walk as a strong free man.

**Bennett's Welcome** delineates fascinating characters of all sorts—planters, slaves—both black and white, explorers, soldiers, and indentured servants. The thread of traditionally American philosophy concerning liberty runs throughout the story in such utterances as these: "I always hope that political differences may be settled by council, instead of arms." "Let us grow stronger so that once again, in God's sight, we may walk as strong, free men." "Virginia should be the **homeland**, and so considered." Peter Montague, speaking of the new Puritan governor at Jamestown, said of him: "A man of peace, prepared for war."

The love story of Stephen Bennett and of Richard Monington lend human qualities very likely to capture enduring interest for this romance—devoid of dullness and so alive with stimulation. For the reader who delights in the historical novel, **Bennett's Welcome** opens up entirely new territory. It is pub-

lished by Bobbs-Merrill Co., Indianapolis, Indiana, \$3.50.

Juanita A. Gross

With the passing of steam-powered boats on the rivers of the West in recent years, the publication of **The Ohio River Handbook and Picture Album** is most timely. Covering the Ohio River area from Pittsburgh to the Mississippi River from early times to the present, the book is divided into five sections dealing with the following main headings: Geography and Maps, Steamboats and Towboats, History and Legend, Racing and Recreation, and Dams and Navigation. Consisting of both pictures and text, the volume covers a great diversity of materials including such matters as the early boats, showboats, steamboat racing, outlaws, gambling, early river settlements, canals, locks, and dams. The well chosen maps, pictures, and newspaper excerpts present a fascinating story which will be a valuable supplement to Louis R. Hunter's general study, "Steamboats on the Western Rivers," published in 1949 by Harvard University Press. This book is well printed and bound. It is edited by Benjamin and Eleanor Klein, with acknowledgements, bibliography and index. Cincinnati, Young and Klein, Inc., 1950. Paper cover, \$2.00; Cloth, \$3.00.

Harold E. Briggs  
Southern Illinois University

Volume II of **The Standard Dictionary of Folklore, Mythology, and Legend** practically completes a long-time project undertaken by the Funk and Wagnalls Company. Now successfully completed, we have at hand with the issuance of the second volume (J-Z), entries in alphabetical order so that many subjects of folklore interest, from Actlaqui to Zombi, can be investigated. Later on, it is announced by the publishers, there will be a third volume which will present a needed bibliography. The Dictionary is the result of twelve years of research and the work of prominent scholars in the field. It has already received favorable press notices and reviews both at home and abroad.

Although the general plan of the Dictionary was outlined in a review of Volume I in the last issue of the KEY, some repetition may be of interest here. In certain cases, the entry carries a formal definition; sometimes, not. Practically all 4,000 or more entries are followed by discussions which emphasize the connection of the entry with folklore. To illustrate: if the entry is **mouse**, we learn of its traditional origin, its connection with a Greek God, its presence or appearance as an omen of war, disaster, or death (contrarily, also good luck), and finally of its use in medicine. Naturally, entries vary in content and possibly in interest, but it is impor-

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tant to note that the contributor of each definition has considered international beliefs in presenting the folklore of his subject.

Scattered through both volumes are lengthy articles, written by specialists on the folklore of various cultures, that of India or of Melanesia, for example. Then there are brief biographies of eminent folklorists; one of the Englishmen, William John Thoms (1803-1885), inventor of the term "folklore," and one of Clark Wissler (1870-1947) American archaeologist and authority on the American Indian, among those who made outstanding contributions. Many will be interested in an article on the Dance and on Primitive and Folk Art, both topics enlisting much enthusiasm today. Odd entries in Volume II are, **rheumatism, sassafras, tongue-twisters,** and many others about which curious notions and beliefs are held by people around the globe.

Mention should be made of the attractive cover-jacket design by Mamie Hermon. This artist has requisitioned symbols from all ages and countries to work out a jacket that should harmonize with the subjects in the Dictionary. The result is decorative and unique.

Maria Leach, editor; Funk and Wagnalls Company, New York, Volume II. \$2.50.

Editor's note: Volume I of **Standard Dictionary of Folklore, Mythology and Legend** was reviewed in Volume III, Number 3 of **EGYPTIAN KEY**, page 8. Mrs. Grace Partridge Smith of Carbondale contributed numerous articles to both volumes.

**The Turquoise Trail** is a historical novel based on the diary of Susan Magoffin. Shirley Seifert, the author, though not an Egyptian, is a neighbor at St. Louis. She has let her imagination put flesh on this skeleton of the diary and the result is a most readable book.

Susan Shelby of Kentucky in 1846 married Samuel Magoffin and went with him on an overland journey in a wagon train from Independence, Missouri, to Santa Fe, New Mexico. She was eighteen and romantic, and with Samuel at her side she felt safe and secure. Neither the interminable distances, nor the unfriendly Apache, nor the barren mountains, nor the vast wilderness, nor the relentless sunshine could daunt her spirits. But Susan in life's hard school grew up.

She learned that marriage is not all romance, that her Irish American husband could be harsh and obstinate. Susan knew the heart breaking experience of losing her first baby, among strangers.

She was ashamed of her own frailty, when she saw an Indian woman, unaided, have her baby and carry it down to the river and wash it and carry it back again to her adobe hut.

Susan saw the Army of the West encamped at Bent's Fort. There were General Kearney's First Regiment of Dragons, Colonel Doniphan's First Missouri Volunteers and Major Clark's Artillery. She shared the homesickness of the young soldiers.

The book has "characters aplenty." Most of them seem very real. There is enough Spanish dialect to ring true. Those who have an interest in the America of a century ago should enjoy the book. There is action, humor and pathos.

As the author has written it, the story would make a colorful and enjoyable movie.

Published by J. F. Lippincott Company, New York. \$3.50  
Mildred R. Friedline

**From My Ozark Cupboard** by Cora Pinkley-Call is a "Basic Ozark Cook Book." It is not just another cook book but is one "not written as any other cook book ever was before." Along with the recipes the reader is given a glimpse of the thrifty Ozark folk and their way of life. The recipes are both old and new, characteristic of the "old line" families of the Ozark Mountains of Arkansas.

Interesting features such as "Hog-Killing Time"; "Canning Time in the Autumn" with its "tantalizing fragrance" of chili sauce, ketchup, pickles and the "smell of lassy making"; "huckleberry time in the Ozarks," are given. Some of the special recipes are for "hickory smoked ham"; "red-eyed gravy"; "chicken 'n' dressing"; "Dumplin' Do's and Dont's"; a very special "angel fruit cake"; "Corey's lemon pie"; many uses for molasses other than "grand mammie's spring tonic of molasses, sulphur and sassafras"; "corn dishes" with all the varieties of corn bread, which is a favorite with the Ozarkians.

Herbs are classed as essential for salads and salad dressings. "Ozark cooks know the value of herbs and grow their own." Herbs are also used in Ozark "Potables," those "something that might be boiled, simmered or stewed" meaning teas. Herb salt and herb vinegar is recommended. The address of a firm in Eureka Springs, Arkansas, where herbs and herb blends may be purchased is given in the book.

Whether the reader does or does not like to cook, this cook book is as interesting as Folklore stories. The author has lived her entire life in the Ozark region and is thoroughly familiar with the life and ways of the Ozark people. All her recipes are authentic and common among the Ozarkians.

Allan Publications, Kansas City, Missouri, \$1.00.

May Dorsey

**America Begins: Early American Writing** was edited and prefaced by Richard M. Dorson. The book was edited from the earliest accounts,

letters and diaries, with the "non-specialist reading audience" in mind. The editing involved the elimination of excessive capitals and italics, the simplification of sentences, the modernizing of spelling, and the excision of long-winded passages.

The material is arranged in eight sections: Voyages, Natural Wonders, Remarkable Providences, Indian Captures, Indian Antics and Comceits, Indian Treaties, Witchcraft, Forest Wars. Some of the authors are familiar, like John Smith and Cotton Mather, at least by name. Others like John Josselyn, Edward Johnson, and John Underhill, are known only to scholars.

The vigorously written narratives contain in their painful realism and simple prose the revelation of a pioneer people. These dramatic records of the first-comers to America make exciting reading. Colonel Norwood's voyage to Virginia recounts disasters galore. The incredible suffering of Mrs. Rowlandson, and Jesuit Missionary, Father Jaques, during their Indian captivity are remarkable records of faith and fortitude. These stories show Indian behavior in ways apparent only to the day-by-day observer. Fabulous tales of the New World are told with precise details. The prodigiousness in all aspects of nature is chanted again and again. The marvelous and supernatural also come in for their share.

These early American writings are records of early American life and constitute a valuable contribution to history, as well as literature. As selected by the author, they give the reader a chance to survey material that is both fresh and illuminating. The book is attractively printed and bound, with twenty-six appropriate illustrations. There is an index.

Published by Pantheon Books, Inc., New York. \$4.50.

Mildred R. Friedline

Mrs. Madeleine Nuttall writes the KEY in response to query:

"Unfortunately for local interest, I was taken away from East St. Louis where I was born, when I was about six weeks old, and then lived in Canton Illinois, (central) until I was eleven. Although I have lived for brief periods in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Maryland, most of my life has been lived here in Northern Illinois, in Sterling, but I love and have pride in the whole state, from top to tip. Living in other states, indeed, perhaps gave me more perspective and a deeper appreciation of my own state's beauties and its wonderful history. In every way, it is a rich treasure of story material."

"The Gift, though it touches on some historical facts, is really a story of a colorful old man, Pidgey, his philosophy and his contribution to his community and friends, and

theirs to him. Its theme is expressed in the words of Pidgey's grandfather, an old frontiersman when he told Pidgey as a small boy: 'Everything gives back—rain to rivers, leaves to the earth that made 'em, and souls to the place they came from. It's only right to go and leave a gift behind, a way of sayin' thanks for all you've had.' Since you will have a review copy of the book, I believe it will speak for itself, and you will understand more fully than I could tell you in a letter, what the story is all about.

"I am very happy about the fact that my book, *The Gift*, was chosen by the *Christian Herald's* "Family Bookshelf" as their April selection, since this is a small book club founded only about three years ago in a crusade for wholesome literature. The board which selected the book consists of Dr. Daniel Polin, Edwin Balmer, publisher of Red Book, Dr. Clarence Hall, Bess Streeter Aldrich, and Drew Pearson. I understand that the book has been recommended by the American Library Association, and favorably reviewed by *The Saturday Review of Literature*, (April 14 issue), as well as by a large number of book columnists in a dozen or more large city newspapers throughout the country—all of which makes me happy, of course!"

*The Gift* is published by A. A. Wyn, New York, \$2.50.

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# Southern Hospitality

IN the few years that we have been having students from foreign countries on our campus, many local groups have had the idea of inviting one or several of them to attend their meetings and to say a few words—or many words.

We\* who are, because of our positions at Southern Illinois University, especially concerned with this matter, should like to express our approval in general of these numerous gestures of welcome. We also think, now that it has become such a widespread practice, that certain aspects of this custom ought to be considered by all the University organizations, and the many people throughout Southern Illinois who occasionally ask these students from abroad to come to their gatherings. It is perhaps our duty to offer some proposals, since we not only take a great interest in these students but also feel a special responsibility for helping them to get the greatest possible benefit from their stay in our country. We can converse with some of them in their own language and thus get better acquainted with them; all of us have spent some time in other countries and can thus appreciate the point of view which a newcomer's different cultural background gives him; several foreign students each year are in our classes, and a few of them are assistant teachers working with us on a part-time basis. It seemed to us that a few suggestions and recommendations might be welcomed as guides for all their occasional hosts. We have formulated a few of these and urge that some thought be given to them each year as programs are planned.

We invite you, first of all, to take advantage of the services of the Graduate School Office at Southern Illinois University, which will direct you to these students, give you a good start on making their personal acquaintance, and assist you in working out details. Our knowledge about all the foreign students currently attending our school and the records of the activities and desires of all those who have come here in the last several years, are at your disposal.

The chief plea we have to make on behalf of our friends who come from Europe, Latin America, Africa, and Asia to Carbondale is that, if a group of us considers asking one of them to a meeting, our group should take the trouble to find out a little about his personality. This will make for mutual understanding and help to establish a really cordial attitude. If one member of the local club can present the new student to the others as a person

with whom he has *previously* enjoyed an acquaintance, the program will be a better one because the guest will not be so bewildered and the whole atmosphere will not be cold and impersonal. At least the visiting student should know quite clearly whether he merely is going to rise and "take a bow" or whether he is expected to speak. It should also be explained to him in detail, when he is first invited, what type of organization this is, and what its purposes are. Remember that the church societies, men's clubs, civic leagues, P.T.A., fraternal organizations, sewing circles, and study groups, taken so much for granted as a part of American life, are largely unknown to him or her. Even if some such groups exist in their countries, these organizations' activities may be conducted in such a different way from ours that outsiders hardly recognize them as the same thing. Many students from abroad have a very different conception from ours of the nature of Masonic groups, for example. Recently, when the Vatican State made a rule barring adherents from affiliation with Rotary International, it was realized for the first time that Church authorities in Rome had no notion of what American Rotary Clubs were like and how they pursued their aims, and that Rotarians here were equally ignorant of the attitude taken in other countries toward their own brethren there.

In a tactful way it should be ascertained, in advance, by those who undertake to entertain a foreign student, what his religion is, and this should be taken into account by the host; (here would be a chance for the Graduate Office to be of definite service to you). Very often it is an extremely important factor in his life. Quite possibly he will need to make an emotional adjustment to our prevailing religious ways; or it may be that the *absence* of those he is used to will prove to be the biggest part of the feeling of strangeness he experiences among us.

If you are personally interested in having foreign students as guests at your home, why not plan to entertain them several times during the school year? This will afford a much better opportunity for real friendships between newcomers and your family, and the students will get a true picture of our home life such as they could never enjoy on single visits. They tell us that they would greatly appreciate these more extended acquaintances. A number also have expressed a special desire for more opportunities to visit the schools, mines, and factories of our region and the historical places.

The chances are that the student we invite to join us is quite a young person, much surprised by a great many little things that he finds different from what he has been used to. Some, of course, are mature persons, well prepared, and of the type who adjust easily; but others are shy, homesick, or unhappy. Usually the foreign students are superior

\*Dr. Willis G. Swartz, Dean of the Graduate School, and Advisor to Foreign Students and the permanent staff of the Department of Foreign Languages which includes Dr. Vera L. Peacock, chairman; Dr. J. Cary Davis, Dr. Hellmut Hartwig, Dr. Eileen Barry, Miss Anna K. Neufeld, and Miss Madeleine M. Smith.

in their studies, having been chosen from among a number of young people, all eager to extend their education in an American college.

Many of them are selected through the instrumentality of the Institute of International Education, which is a non-profit agency dedicated to the creating of better understanding among the peoples of the world through educational exchanges. In this capacity, the Institute assists educational institutions and private groups in the selection of scholarship and fellowship holders. It also administers government grants for professional and technical training of selected students from foreign nations. This Institute serves as a clearing-house of information on student exchange and publishes a monthly magazine devoted to informational and factual articles of current interest in this field.

Not everyone who asks a foreign student to address his organization remembers how difficult it must be for a very young person to speak before a group of whose background he knows little, *in a foreign language*. For some of these students it means a real struggle in their classes, to take in the lectures, take notes, do the assignments, and recite, all in English; and it is not easy for any of them. It is even harder to plan something to say and deliver a little speech in English before strangers, and per-

haps try to answer questions and think quickly, to convey thoughts in the best way. Few of us could do all that abroad, and be an ambassador of good will at the same time, as would be expected of us.

This appeal is made so that those who read it will know, as most do not, how great a demand has arisen in recent years for the interesting company of foreign students, frequently with talking and showing of the treasures they may have brought, and sometimes with other entertainment by those who have special talents. Sometimes these invitations represent a burden as well as a treat, and the custom is such that it becomes almost a professional activity for them. We strongly urge that organizations which sometimes pay fees to their speakers consider doing so when they invite a foreign student, remembering that most of them have very little to live on, and see the country while here, and that their time is very much taken up with their school work, both studying and, in some cases, teaching. If there is to be no other compensation than a meal or refreshments, plus the pleasure of the social event itself and the opportunity to make more friends in America, we should like to recommend that at least the local group think quite seriously about the event they plan, in the light of what we have just said about the matter of time and the other difficulties involved for the visitor.

**Top-left—Dr. and Mrs. Balaji Mundkur, India.**  
**Center—Shifra Ginsberg is welcomed to Southern Illinois University by President Morris.** The 21 year old girl from Israel, who once led guerilla soldiers in combat, did graduate work in psychology under a scholarship sponsored by the B'nai B'rith Association.

**Top-right—Helen Miabara of Makawao and Florence**

**Kee-ra-ha-ra of Paia, both from the island of Maui, Hawaii.**

**Bottom-left—Fresia Fierro, Chile; Manuel de Ezeurdia, Mexico; and Yvonne Giacopucci, France.**

**Bottom-right—Nicole Versinger, Marseille; Anne Marie Thibaud, Uriage-Isere, France; and Orlando Correa, Bogata, Columbia, South America.**



Organizations whose own contributions have materially aided the particular student invited, to come to this country, may of course, feel justified in considering this obligation as already discharged in advance.

Groups who promote international good will in this way are: District 216, Rotary International; Illinois State Federation of Women's Clubs; and the Southern Illinois Jewish Foundation.

For permanent faculty members such community activity nearby is a duty which we are usually glad to perform whenever we can, without fees to supplement our salary; but it is quite otherwise for students and assistant teachers who soon will be returning to their own countries and whose time and funds are so limited.

If more than one of the international group are to attend a meeting, we should like to see the same tact exercised that a hostess needs in planning a party. In some cases these students have nothing in common except not having been born in Southern Illinois. They may have resentments against each other which it would require more than ordinary human tolerance to overcome; in any case, to be brought together just because they are all foreigners sometimes must give them the feeling of being more like freaks on exhibition than like people away from home being made welcome. Such uncomfortable situations probably can be avoided by the personal-acquaintance approach which we have already recommended. It should not be hard to find out who among them are particularly congenial with each other.

Lastly, we wish to speak of what subject-matter may be most appropriate to suggest when these students are your guests. We hope none of them will ever be *beckled* on social and political questions, or even pressed to answer questions which they seem a little reluctant to discuss. If we ask them to tell us about their home life, it must be in a spirit of sympathetic interest in their country; otherwise they will not want to accept again, nor will we of the faculty encourage them to spend their time in this way. In our opinion it would be better to think of something more original than to ask them for their impressions of the United States or of student life in Carbondale. It is rather hard to answer questions like that in a way that will tell the audience something new and interesting. If we have any natural curiosity, it should be to find out, not what they think about us, but what we can learn

about their country, what fresh point of view they can give us on the questions that interest them the most, whether this be world affairs or architecture in their home countries, the industrial development or the political situation there. The emphasis should always be upon what means more to the people of some other country than it does to us, or upon what they perhaps know more about than we do; we may learn things we did not know before.

Three good rules would be:

1. To include the name of the student's home country, in mentioning the topic of his talk, and, if possible, in every question addressed to him, (in some radio interviews this is neglected, so that the casual listener is left ignorant on this point); one should not say "your country," as though the name of it were too hard to remember.
2. For all present to learn the name of the town or *city* from which the visitor comes and to mention it often.
3. If he has a special line of interest, such as sculpture or journalism or farming methods or women's rights, to let the conversation center upon that as much as possible.

Many students who come here to learn from our American faculty have wonderful ambitions regarding the work they hope to accomplish at home with the education they will have received here, and can talk most interestingly on these matters. They should also be encouraged to tell of the contributions which their great men have made or which their type of education *can* make to the world's improvement, and what the people of their country can do better than we can. Our interchange of views will have incalculable extension, as we quickly realize when we multiply the effects of it. *Hundreds* of children and grown citizens of other lands will reap the results of this interchange, as it is going to be transmitted by our eager, wide-awake visiting friends. For many of them have long teaching careers ahead of them, and almost all will have occasion to talk to many people about what they know of America from having "so-journed in Egypt."

We hope that the people of Southern Illinois will continue to take the friendly interest that they do in the newly-arrived students who may feel lonely among us, and that it will be along the lines we have tried to indicate.

## The Rhythm Of The Rows

By Will Griffith

Dedicated to Lester Biggs

In Egyptland o'er ridge and hill  
Gleam winter's fresh white snows,  
As Nature marks, with artist skill,  
In the rhythm of the rows.

The apple trees and those of peach,  
As winter's cold wind blows,  
Line up in ranks just out of reach  
In the rhythm of the rows.

With Spring's warm breath in God's own time,  
Victor o'er wintry foes,  
The scent and scene is yours and mine,  
In the rhythm of the rows.

When summer fades to early fall,  
And a serried hillside glows,  
God's fruit is there for one and all  
In the rhythm of the rows.

# *Every Body's Doing It!*



# I'M IN A HURRY

By DOUGLAS E. LAWSON

*Dean of the College of Education  
Southern Illinois University.*

Life is a busy and crowded street  
Comprised of hurrying, running feet.  
I'm carried along on humanity's wave  
In a hurry to live—and reach the grave.

I sleep at night and work all day.  
I haven't a moment of time to play.  
I have a fever for work and power—  
I haven't time for the golden hour;  
No time to live—just time to die.  
As years go by, let my fever worsen:  
I'll be a success, though not a person.

I don't like woods and I don't like books.  
I don't seek Nature's shaded nooks.  
To me all Nature is just a void:  
I'm a megalomaniac paranoid.  
I don't like squirrels or geese or ducks;  
But I've got an ulcer and a million bucks.  
I'm a big success—with the diagnosis:  
Anxiety type of psychoneurosis.

I've never lain on a grassy sod  
To scan the skies in search of God,  
Nor responded to Nature's calmness there  
As cathedrals echo the sounds of prayer.

My wealth is all in power and goods.  
I have no time for fields or woods;  
For I work with speed and desperation  
And my nerves are frayed with their own frustra-

tion  
And my days are days of exasperation.  
No time for the spirit's contemplation  
Or a calm mind's ratiocination;  
No time for Nature's pharmaceutics  
Oh her physico-psychotherapeutics.  
My body's a wreck—or mighty darned near it,  
And nothing is left of a once calm spirit.

I'm a shrewd, sharp man of great acumen;  
But I never play and I'm not quite human.  
I've rushed through life like a storm of wrath.  
I'm a great success—and a psychopath.  
I hurry to work—and I push and I shove;  
No time to play, to pray, or to love.

I have no foolish time to waste;  
In a life of frenetic and frantic haste,  
I'm carried along on the rushing wave.  
I'm in a hurry to reach my grave.

## *Non Omnis Moriatur*

By DOUGLAS E. LAWSON

Do not believe that you're alone at last:  
The hours we've shared together cannot fail,  
When evening wraps you with a purple veil,  
To bring you part of me from all our past.  
Do not the stars still shine where once they shone,  
My hand on yours, my cheek against your cheek,  
Our understanding from the past will speak  
Its wordless message. You are not alone.  
For man is more than flesh; and I am there  
In all the things you think, in all you really are,  
A part of everything that you believe.  
Hold, then, for me, the things that we can share—  
The firm ideals, the light of every star;  
For, once a part of you, I cannot leave.



# Floating Circuses

By HAROLD E. BRIGGS

*Chairman of the History Department  
Southern Illinois University.*

**I**N the nineteenth century as the frontier line of settlement moved westward across the American continent, one of the cultural activities that kept close to the outer fringe of civilization was the theatre and other forms of entertainment. The frontier inhabitants in all parts of the West craved recreation and amusement and were quick to take advantage of what was offered. They flocked in great numbers to see circuses, menageries, museums, minstrel and variety shows, as well as acrobats, tight rope walkers, magicians, phrenologists, and they were interested in all possible types of musical entertainment. They welcomed visiting theatrical troupes and organized their own local dramatic and lyceum societies. As the pioneer populations poured into the plains, prairie, and river settlements of the middle west, all types of entertainment soon made their appearance.

Located on the low alluvial soil at the junction of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, the border settlement of Cairo dates back to the first decades of the nineteenth century. In 1826 the town consisted of a tavern and a store and by 1850 its population numbered only 242 inhabitants. But in spite of its slow growth the various townsite companies that promoted it had great faith in the future of the settlement and were optimistic in their predictions that it would some day become the "Greatest City of the West" and even the "Metropolis of the Nation." It grew rapidly in the fifties and by 1860 boasted a population of 2,188 persons.

Two factors tending to boom the river settlement in the fifties and to bring in large numbers of transients were the many steamboats that stopped there for various reasons and the construction of the Illinois Central railroad which connected it by rail with St. Louis and other northern points.

"Every boat stops at Cairo," wrote a local editor early in November, 1848, and the failure of a steamer to stop in February, 1855, brought forth from the editor of the *Cairo Times* a statement of explanation to the effect that "she was afraid to land for fear of being tied up for an old bill." While there was some difference of opinion as to exactly how many steamboats landed each year at the various wharfboats in this booming river town, everyone seemed to agree that the number was large and a conservative estimate would be from 3500 to 4000.

The Illinois Central Railroad was incorporated by the State of Illinois on February 10, 1851, and by midsummer its engineers were in town making their preliminary surveys. The road was completed in April, 1854, and passenger and freight traffic to the north began. The construction of the railroad brought large numbers of laborers as well as certain business activities to the town which served to swell the already large transient population. Work on the levees as sponsored by the Illinois Central brought in additional influxes of labor at various times.

The editor of Cairo's first newspaper, writing on November 2, 1848, emphasized that large numbers of people were passing through the town or making short stops there for various reasons. He said in part: "Thousands of strangers have been in Cairo during the past week. Few can imagine the amount of traveling on the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers and the number of people that stop at this place. From all lands they come—men seeking their fortunes and many who seek to spend that which they have already earned. A world is moving on before us like the silent flowing waters of rivers that here mingle."

There is ample evidence to indicate that the period from 1848 to 1858 was a turbulent one in the town. The local press is filled with accounts of every type of crime and evil doing known in the West as a large floating population passed through the settlement.

While most of the early settlers were honest and stable persons, the West also attracted the dissolute and the undesirable. The early river settlements were especially notorious with their large numbers of rough rivermen from the numerous flatboats and steamboats that moved in endless procession along the western waters. The presence of large numbers of emigrants gave thieves, gamblers and crooks of every description ample opportunity to prey upon the honest and unwary in Cairo where the hand of the law was feeble. The town had its full share of the so-called "snapping-turtle, half-man, half-alligator" type of boatmen who

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Note: The preparation of this paper was made possible in part by a research grant from Southern Illinois University. Harold E. Briggs.

A very early steamboat.



drank, fought and gouged among themselves and with the town's inhabitants.

Drunkenness was common in the border settlements and the amount of whiskey, brandy and rum consumed in Cairo must have been enormous. In 1856, when the population was less than two thousand, the town licensed twenty-eight "groceries" and two billiard halls, each of which paid a license fee of seventy-five dollars to dispense liquor and maintain a bar. While there were ordinances passed by the town council from time to time attempting to regulate the liquor dispensaries, it was very difficult to stop them from operating on Sunday. The building of a jail and the organization of a local police force in the middle fifties made it possible to maintain some degree of order although there are examples of the citizens working together for the administration of what the local editor called "Cairo Justice" when the situation got beyond the control of the local police.

Cairo with its large floating population, predominately male, was a good show town and soon attracted the itinerant entertainer and lecturer as well as show troupes of various sorts who were always sure of liberal patronage.

While there is no doubt that the town had its traveling entertainers in the late thirties and early forties there are no available records of them as there was no newspaper in the settlement until April, 1848, when an A. H. Sanders, attracted by the possibilities of the settlement, established the *Cairo Delta*. In his first issue published on Thursday, April 13, the editor announced that his paper was designed to represent and support Southern Illinois and the neighboring region as well as the town. "There is no place so well known by name in the west," he wrote, "at all comparable to it in size as Cairo—and yet there is not a town or city of which the public are really so ignorant." He "puffed" the settlement in typical frontier style and if the town continued to have a reputation for lawlessness, unhealthfulness and being subject to floods it was certainly not the fault of the local editor.

River activity in the entertainment field along the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers and their tributaries dates back to the early nineteenth century. The well known actor-manager, Sol. Smith, tells in his autobiography of how Noah Ludlow, who later became another prominent western theatrical manager and a partner of Smith, crossed the Blue Ridge

mountains to the headwaters of the Cumberland river in 1817. There he built a sheltered keel-boat on which he operated a show giving performances along the Cumberland, Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. The adventurous Sol. Smith, not to be outdone, soon got himself a floating theatre and for several years they operated competing shows.

In 1827 an Englishman, William Chapman, came to Pittsburgh with his family, all of whom were actors, and constructed a broadhorn boat which he operated as a showboat that became famous on the rivers of the middle west. While there seems to be some difference of opinion as to whether or not he presented his plays on the boat, there is plenty of evidence that his broadhorn carried a large flag bearing the words in white letters "Floating Theatre." P. T. Barnum, who later established his famous Museum in New York City, was operating a traveling menagerie and circus in the south and middle west in the thirties. Finding overland travel difficult and uncertain as well as expensive, he purchased a steamer on the Missouri River in 1836 on which he took his circus down the Mississippi River to New Orleans. By the late forties and early fifties several circus companies as well as minstrel shows, menageries and museum exhibitions were making regular trips up and down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. They were naturally interested in this booming, rough and ready settlement at the junction of the two rivers and by 1848 newspaper accounts of their activities are available.

No type of amusement was as popular along the rivers and the backwoods areas of the early West as the circus. Its appeal was broad and attendance on the frontier was usually good. The American circus developed rapidly in the first half of the nineteenth century. It is claimed that John Robinson of Little Falls, New York, took the first tented circus across the Alleghany Mountains in 1824. He had three wagons and five horses and his performances, which included clowns, tight and slack rope walkers and other special features, was offered under a 70-foot canvas top. Acrobats and fancy horse riders were added and later menageries, which first developed as separate presentations, became a part of the circus offerings. Traveling first by horses and wagons, advantage was soon taken of steamboat travel and railroad transportation.

The first record of a circus performance in Cairo was on July 6, 1848, when an extensive ad-

vertisement, a full column in length, appears in the *Delta* announcing that Rockwell and Company's Circus would present their "Immense and talented equestrian establishment" and the rest of their "strong and brilliant company" in one performance on July 10th at Ohio City on the Missouri side of the Mississippi river. Transportation would be furnished to those in Cairo who wished to attend. There were to be pageants, cavalcades, acrobats, gymnasts and clowns with new housings and trappings, and music would be furnished by the Queen City Brass Band.

They took great pride in calling particular attention to H. W. Franklin and to the "inimitable" Mrs. A. Rockwell as fine equestrian performers, Mr. Lake with his trained dogs, Mrs. Lake on the slack wire, and William Grady, a child performer. The whole was to be concluded by a laughable after-piece. The performance was to start at two o'clock with the general admission to the boxes at fifty cents and twenty-five cents for the pit. Children under twelve and servants might gain admittance to the boxes at half price but there was no reduction for the pit. There is no mention in the next issue of the *Delta* of the performance.

Circus advertising in the press followed a certain pattern. In most cases the circus agent would book the river towns one or two weeks ahead, running an advertisement of from a half to a full column in the local paper. While frontier editors were more likely to praise than to criticise, their attitude toward the performances at times seems to have been influenced to some extent by the amount of advertising and printing they received. As one observer put it: "those who patronize the printer were apt to receive liberal praise." There was no consistent policy regarding news items on the performances after they were given, available space and the feelings of the editor probably being the deciding factors.

There were no more circus performances until the summer of 1849 when the Southwestern Circus of J. C. Stokes presented its offerings at Ohio City. Among its features were Mr. Eaton Stone, "the most astonishing bareback rider," James Buckley, "the shipwrecked sailor," Bill Lake's St. Bernard Dogs and Starck's celebrated Brass Band. Admissions were the same as the year before and the public was urged to attend. While the steamboat carried nearly one hundred persons to Ohio City from

Cairo, the local editor reported that the show was not well attended as the people in the back country feared cholera.

Cairo had no newspaper during 1850 and no record exists as to visiting circuses but on September 11, 1851, the *Cairo Sun* reported that September 17 would be a "red let-

ter day," as two circuses would perform in town on that date. The Rockwell Circus starring the "World Renowned" A. Rockwell, the Yankee Clown, Mr. Walker, the "Great European Gymnast," Signor Germani, the "Pride of the Italian Arena," and many others. There would be two excellent bands, brass and string, to entertain the audience. The editor in urging his readers to attend wrote: "life is uncertain, and you or Rockwell may die, come one, come all."

The Southwestern or the Stokes Circus had about the same performers as they presented in 1849 with the exception of "Herr Alexander, the Great Magician" who was stressed in the advertising. Both shows must have had a crowd as on September 18, 1851, the day after the performances, the editor wrote: "Our city was as full of life and bustle yesterday as a bee hive. The fact that two circuses exhibited here on the same day woke up all the surrounding neighborhoods and convened more people than we have seen in a 'coon's age' before." During the next few years many circuses appeared in Cairo; some of the major ones that showed on several occasions were Spaulding and Rogers, H. M. Smith's and Madigan's. The year 1856 seems to have been the banner one, as in a twelve month period Smith's, Madigan's, and Spaulding and Rogers each performed twice and several minor shows presented their offerings.

When the H. M. Smith Circus appeared in May, 1856, a large audience was reported. "Where so many people came from was a matter of wonderment," observed the editor of the *Weekly Times and Delta*. He was pleased to see the improvement in the number of ladies and the performance was reported to have been better than that of the general run of traveling shows. On August 13 of the same year the press announced that H. M. Smith's "Great American Circus equipped and designed for the leading exhibit of 1856" would perform on Saturday, August 16th, at Cairo. Many new acts were reported with a brass and string band. H. M. Smith in his "celebrated Shakespearean act" was featured as well as H. A. Gardiner, the "Great American Clown," who would conclude the show with a presentation of a country man's visit to the circus.

On September 19, 1856, Madigan's "Incomparable Circus" was reported to have put down its stakes last Thursday night September 7th, and according to the editor, "Though the performance was unexpected and unheralded and though it rained nearly all the afternoon and evening, the little pavilion was crowded to utmost capacity." It was reported to be one of the very best circuses traveling through the country. "Every performer perfect and complete in his or her part," con-



tinued the editor, "and there are no blunders, everything goes off smoothly." Miss Rose Madigan "a graceful and daring rider" was the feature of the performance and some of her friends from St. Louis were so fascinated with her that they presented her with a silver goblet valued at \$35 and with a magnificent horse valued at \$350.

H. M. Smith's "big top" visited Cairo again on June 24, 1857, and Spaulding and Rogers Circus played there on November 18 of the same year. On November 25, 1857, The Big Elephant Show and Circus was scheduled, and when the boat appeared her arrival was heralded by Frank Cardella "who fairly made his big calliope squeal as the boat pulled in causing men and boys to come tearing down to the levee to see what was happening." The first two performances were reported to have been the best the editor had ever seen, "particularly the tricks of the elephants." On April 22, 1858, Spaulding and Rogers Show on its Floating Palace docked a few miles below Cairo and was said to be planning to remain there for several days. "Everybody was ready who could borrow a half dollar," wrote the editor, and "the performances were filled to capacity." On November 11, 1858, the same show was back in town, now calling itself the Spaulding and Rogers New Orleans Circus and gave two "highly entertaining, novel and wonderful exhibitions" and moved upstream to Mounds City the next day.

While the frontier editor was usually liberal with praise for most types of entertainment that were presented, there were times when he assumed a highly critical attitude, especially if the entertainers did not patronize him for advertising and printing. A case in point was on June 25, 1856, when Washburn's "Indian Circus" was reported by the *Weekly Times and Delta*. The editor's estimate ran as follows: "Washburn's 'Big Injun' Circus, or what was purported to be a circus, performed in Cairo Saturday night. The performance—as is usual with all amusements in Cairo—was crowded to excess and the managers must have realized a handsome sum by it, a result which was not justi-

fied by their liberality to the town, as they ignored the printer and everyone but the town clerk. But they paid their license, being hereunto compelled. The exhibition was a repetition of the old stale round of circus performances but without a single good rider or horse, and with a clown who resuscitated all of Joe Miller's fossil jokes, but produced nothing new. But the 'Injun' part of the program was sufficiently farcical and ridiculous to make up for the clown's lack of humor. In the grand buffalo hunt there were four or five decrepit buffalo and a few sorry looking Indians." The only good thing about the performance seems to have been the music.

A history of the American circus furnishes plenty of evidence to indicate that things were not always peaceful between the circus people and the inhabitants of the backwoods river and border towns. There were many disagreements and at times the cry of "Hey Rube" brought both circus personnel and townspeople into bloody conflict on the circus grounds or on the levee. P. T. Barnum, who in 1836 traveled with his circus by steamboat from the Missouri River to New Orleans, tells in his two volume autobiography of his experiences in a Mississippi River town below Cairo. During the performance there was an argument between the ticket-seller and a drunken native which resulted in the would-be spectator being ejected from the tent. He was very much incensed and rounded up a crowd of hoodlums from the saloons and other dives along the levee. The mob that was disposed at first to destroy the tent and everything in it were persuaded by the circus officials and some of the stable townspeople to allow Barnum and his circus two hours to load their equipment on their boat and leave town. By hard effort they were able to get loaded and the two hour period ended just as they swung away from the shore and began to move downstream. The crowd on the bank, which a short time before was ready to attack them, gave a loud cheer as they moved down the river.

On August 12, 1857, the editor of the *Weekly Times and Delta* told a story under the heading



A familiar sight on the Rivers.

"Tempest in a Tea Pot" in which he described what he called a "muss" at a circus performance in Mounds City on the Ohio a short distance above Cairo. "Last Friday night when the Spaulding and Rogers Circus performed on their Floating Palace at Mounds City," wrote the editor, "a riot occurred which was a disgrace to the place, and must have been regretted by every decent and respectable citizen." While the performance was going on several local citizens under the influence of "too much mean whiskey" were noisy and troublesome and were requested to be quiet. The disturbance continued until a man connected with the show threatened one of the party with summary ejection. He was dared to do it and he did it, the ejected party picking up another man and carrying him with him in his slide down the stairs. The noisy individual had his face cut a little in the operation and immediately a number of "denizens" waxed greatly indignant and swore a dire and terrible retribution upon the boat. "The amount of wind expended upon the occasion would have done credit to a young hurricane."

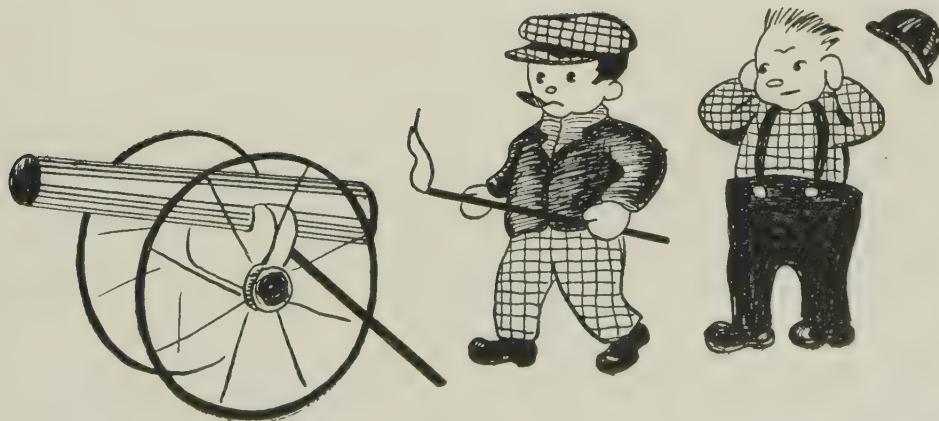
The group went ashore and obtained a six pound cannon and stationed it some fifty yards from the shore. They secured a keg of powder and threatened to fire at the boat. The mayor and his family, who were attending the performance with other private citizens, objected and since the show was about over it was agreed by the circus proprietors that the boat would leave Mounds City at once. The boat backed out and moved down stream toward Cairo although numerous private fights occurred before it was able to depart. A group of citizens from Mounds City met the next day and sent apologies to Spaulding and Rogers for what had occurred. A gentleman connected with the Floating Palace was accidentally left in Mounds City because of the haste involved in getting the boat away from

the shore, and it was only with difficulty that he escaped being severely treated by the mob.

Frontier editors were inclined to "puff" and speak well of their own towns and to be critical of their neighbors. They were quick to make apologies for their own settlements and to make a good story out of another's misfortune. The Cairo editor closed his discourse on the subject by expressing two opinions on the matter: first, "That we never witnessed a more disgraceful scene," and second, "If these had been Cairo boys they would not have wasted their time in talking or would they have asked for a cannon. They would have boarded the boat and whipped or got whipped."

When the same show was presented at Cairo the local editor was very careful to point out that this town was thanked publicly by the Spaulding and Rogers management for its courteous treatment of the performance and of the personnel, in contrast to what happened in Mounds City. There are no available newspaper accounts of any major conflicts between Cairo citizens and traveling circuses, although minor incidents were reported from time to time. Since the press did not always print news items about the performances of the traveling circuses and the editors were anxious to present Cairo in the best possible light, serious altercations may have occurred of which no record is available.

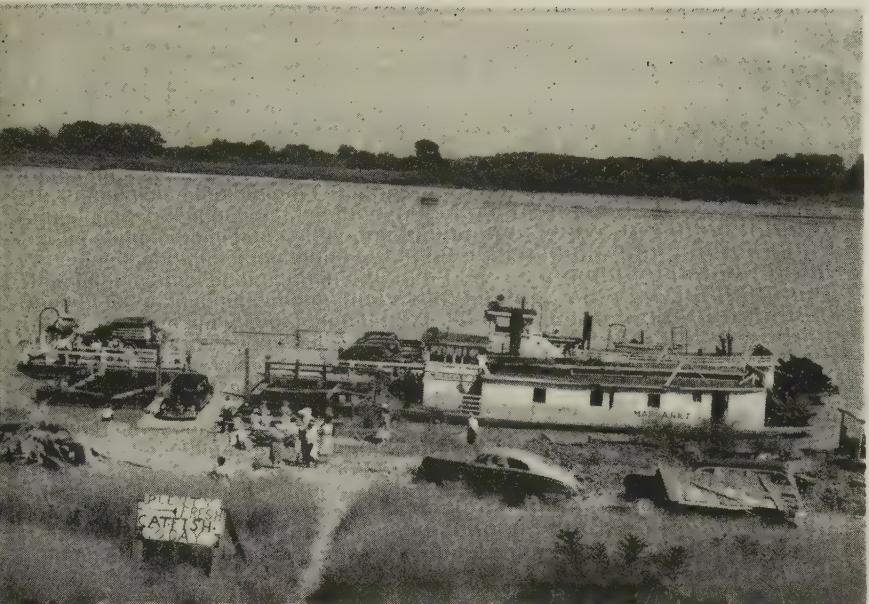
But the circus was not the only kind of entertainment that appeared in Cairo in the ten year period between 1848 and 1858. There were numerous minstrel troupes, traveling menageries and museums, as well as variety programs of every sort and description and toward the end of the decade traveling thespians presenting the legitimate drama appeared at the various halls and theatres. Both the amount and variety of entertainment was great and will be described in another installment in the EGYPTIAN KEY.





The road to relaxation in Giant City State Park. Visitors may drive over a twenty-mile network within the park.

*Illinois Division of Parks Photo*



## Summertime In Egypt

A. Shawneetown ferry on the Ohio.

B. Jackson Hollow near Zion Church, east of Ozark.

Photos by W. H. Farley, Harrisburg, Illinois

C. Resting in the shade, Cave in Rock State Park on  
the banks of the Ohio.

Illinois Division of Parks Photo



# MARY SUE HUMMA MEMORIAL BOOK SHELF

By CORROLA RUGGLES, Librarian  
Metropolis Public Library, Metropolis, Illinois

April 16, 1950, was a red letter day for the Metropolis Public Library. On that day a new book shelf was proudly displayed.

Two hundred and fifty volumes, selected after careful study, were shown in a new section of shelving. At the top was a bronze plate bearing these words: "Mary Sue Humma Memorial Book Shelf."

There were books of fact, fiction, myth, history, art, folklore, and music. Each the best and most beautiful of its kind. These books were given by relatives and friends of Mary Sue.

On April 16th visitors were welcomed by our Librarian Mrs. Ruggles and her assistant Mrs. Mid-dagh. Special guests were the Assistant State Librarian, Miss Helene Rogers and deputy, Miss Von Diekhaus. Miss Rogers spoke briefly on the splendid facilities and co-operation found in our library.

No day has passed that the shelf has not been used. At least a dozen books are in daily circulation. The idea was for the teen age. The reading

level reaches from eight to eighteen. Quite a number of adults cast wishful eyes at the shelf, and several are renewing their acquaintance with Tom Sawyer, Marmee and Winnie the Pooh. The favorites, *The Audubon Bird Book*, *Little Women*, *Smokey*, and *The Yearling* are in constant use.

Mary Sue was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Humma; the sister of John and Mary Elizabeth, whose picture before the book shelf, accompanies this story.

Only thirteen short years, she lived here, working her way into the hearts of all who knew her, blue eyes aglow with the joy of living, a ready smile for all, busy with work and play, eager to learn and help, very much at home in this world and especially so in the library.

Then with a terrible suddenness she was no longer in our midst. At first we felt crushed, then resentful that this could happen to us.

The grandparents and parents of Mary Sue set the wheels in motion to change this feeling. Not pity, not sorrow would be linked with her memory. The joy of her thirteen short years would go on and on and reach out to all the youth in our community.

Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Flanagan, maternal grandparents, decided that the best way to go about this might be through the public library. Mr. and Mrs. Humma, the parents, agreed and the idea grew.

Friends are availing themselves of the privilege, and a small flow of books continues to feed this book shelf.

We are happier for having known and loved Mary Sue. We are happier to watch our children learn to know and love the book shelf.

Two little ladies of tender years came bursting out of the library carrying books; one tripped and dropped her precious cargo. The other quickly said, "Oh! do be more careful; those are Mary Sue Humma books."

Just as Mary Sue did, so have the books won a special place in our hearts.



Brother and sister of Mary Sue, John and Elizabeth Ann Humma, by the Memorial Book Shelf.

Photo courtesy Metropolis Public Library

# Egyptian Starlight

## XII.—FRANCES KIRKWOOD CRANE

*An Egyptian author who has attained success, internationally, with her "mysteries."*



**I**F YOU are not a "who-dun-it" fan, maybe you will not be interested in this Starlight. But if you have an eye for color, just name your favorite and we'll produce the right story for you to begin on. Take your choice of the *The Amethyst Spectacle* or the *Turquoise Shop* or any of a dozen others. The Detective Book Club of 40,000 members has chosen a number, among them *The Pink Umbrella*, *The Apple Green Cat*, and *The Yellow Violet*.

Now you ask us, "Why should we be interested in these books when hair-raisers make us nervous and keep us awake?" For three reasons: first, these books and a number of other good mystery stories have been written by a native Egyptian; second, because the travels and adventures that Pat Abbott and his wife, Jane, experience are fascinating and different; and third, because the description of the locale of each book is not just space filler.

Frances Kirkwood Crane was born in Lawrence County, Illinois, the daughter of Lenora Rawlings-Catterton and R. M. Kirkwood. After attending elementary and high school in Lawrenceville, she was graduated from the University of Illinois. She is a Phi Beta Kappa. Mrs. Crane says her mother's people, Cattertons, Rawlings, and Blackburns, came to Lawrence County from Virginia and Kentucky in 1815 and the Kirkwoods from Ulster, Ireland. These facts help define her make-up. Some of the Rawlings family arrived in what is now Lawrence County in 1807 and built the second house between Vincennes and St. Louis on the old St. Louis trail.

When there are chemical or medical phases to Mrs. Crane's stories, you can feel sure her brother, Doctor Tom Kirkwood, of Lawrenceville, had a guiding hand in them. He is very proud of his sister's accomplishments, but deserves a Starlight story in his own right.



Though a "country practitioner," Tom is the physician who discovered and reported the first cases of tularemia in Illinois. Tularemia is a disease of rabbits and other wild animals which sometimes attacks human beings so disastrously. He says of his sister, "She was always an imaginative alert person. During our childhood we had the natural boy-girl fights, but nothing spectacular. I've always tried to back her up in her ambitions."

Mrs. Crane wrote us, "I am just back from Rome, which is The Place to go in Europe at present. I have lived in Lawrenceville, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York, London, Berlin, and Paris. I will probably move back to New York when I get time to move, because it is the publishing center. I write mornings, wherever I am.

"I did incidental writing to pass the time, for magazines, chiefly the *New Yorker*; pieces about Europe. World War II found me in America. Not being an accredited journalist I could not get a passport—even women journalists were denied them for several years—and since by that time I needed to learn to write something with a steady sale, I tried everything, and first thing which took was *The Turquoise Shop*, which people found "different" in the crime story line.

"At the suggestion of my publishers I continued writing the Abbots. The second book, *The Golden Box*, was in a small Southern Illinois town, and having also a color in it, this led to using color in all the following titles. *The Daffodil Blonde* has a Kentucky background. I kept the Abbots moving around because I expected to go back to writing foreign pieces for magazines; however, as time has gone on, the mysteries with the different setting for each story, have left little time for other writing. In 1948, however I made a trip to Sweden and



## In the garden of an English Inn.

Finland and wrote from ideas picked up on the trip, a short piece called *Sudden Journey*.

"My mysteries are published by Random House. Including the most recent one, *Polkadot Murder*, there are fifteen of them. I found time, during my 1949 stay in London, to do some *New Yorker* pieces and a couple of short crime stories. I try to have the crime novel ready six months in advance.

"The crime novel is an interesting form and I regret that it hasn't the standing in this country that it has in England, where more honor is done the writers of 'thrillers' as they call them. The Abbotts have a big sale in England, and have been translated into French, Spanish, Portuguese, Danish, and German. In this country all but two have been Detective Book Club choices and they have been published widely as reprints, by Bantam Books and by Popular Library. The Toronto Star has bought them all, and syndicates them widely, as is

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also done in this country by Kansas City Star, Pittsburgh Press, Boston World, and one or two other Sunday feature papers. They have been used as a radio serial, and they are said to be among the best-selling detectives.

"I like travel, any kind, air, ship, train, or car, and think the best place to live, anywhere, is in our Mountain States, but would rather work in Lawrenceville, Illinois, than anywhere. I want to do a straight thick novel, with such a setting sometime.

"I do not 'like' to write, and don't think most professional writers do; no such thing, I think, as 'inspiration' in a professional writer. Certain ideas are suggestive to the trained writer, and, because it is his way of earning a living, or just putting in time, if money does not matter—it almost always does—we usually note them down, mentally or otherwise, and make use of them when the time comes. In writing an Abbott, I decide on the locale, and then on a set of characters to fit that locale, and also with sufficient diversity and likes and dislikes enough to create situations. This sometimes leads reviewers to say "same old stuff"; but, after all, people are the same in the crime novel, the characters are not usually so well developed as the plot. I am sometimes criticised for lack of enough plot, but it is probably because I get more interested in the people than in the story.

"The original plan was to have the Abbotts in a series of European settings, but people have liked them in the United States, and the present plan is to keep them here, but still roving. They do not adapt to magazines because they do not have a dominating love story and because the plot is too much of a maze to cut for two or three-part publication.

"I am still writing some for the New Yorker and fly to Europe occasionally on special assignments.

"I think Southern Illinois is beautiful but more so in winter than in summer."

Mrs. Crane makes her home, (when she is not on the wing hunting who did what), with her mother, Mrs. R. M. Kirkwood, in Lawrenceville, Illinois. She has completed a new book, her publisher informs us, titled *Murder in Blue Street*, which is tentatively scheduled for publication on November eighth.

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# *A Partnership —*

## **Illinois Central and Egypt**



**W**HEN the Illinois Central received its charter from the state of Illinois on February 10, 1851, with authority to build a railroad from Cairo to Dungleith (now East Dubuque), and from Centralia to Chicago, it "inherited," so to speak, the territory which now embraces Greater Egypt. From then on its destinies were inevitably linked with the land and the people it was created to serve. It was, perhaps, more like a marriage—for better or for worse, through good times and bad, in sickness and in health. The founding fathers and the management that directed the destinies of the new railroad were determined that the marriage should not languish. How well they planned is evidenced in the growth of the railroad and the state from those early days a century ago.

Within that period, Illinois has been transformed from an untamed wilderness into a great agricultural and industrial commonwealth, rivaling in many respects some of the foremost nations of the world. The secret of Illinois' remarkable progress is told in one word—transportation. Transportation was the key that unlocked the great natural resources of Illinois. It opened the door of opportunity to the farmer, the miner, the manufacturer and the merchant. Without good transportation, Illinois' agricultural, industrial and commercial development could not have taken place.

Shortly after the charter was granted, the Illinois Central had a large force of engineers in the field. On December 23, 1851, ground was broken at Chicago and Cairo, and the construction of what was destined to become the principal railway system in Illinois was definitely under way. Within a few months the road was under construction at several points, and thousands of laborers were arriving in Illinois to aid in the undertaking.

Although the population of the state was then in the neighborhood of 900,000, the majority of these settlers were located in counties bordering on the rivers and canals. The prairie country, vast and fearsome, was still but sparsely settled. In the summer months the wayfarer fought swarms of mosquitoes and kept ever alert for rattlesnakes that infested the prairies in great numbers. In winter, the hapless traveler who found it necessary to breast the fury of blinding snowstorms was lost without a compass to guide him. Seasonal rains turned the country into a quagmire, with deep swamps, sink holes and turbulent streams that had neither bridge nor ferry to get across. To these hazards could be added the ever-present dread of miasmatic fevers and other diseases that took such heavy toll among the pioneers.

The 366-mile route of the Illinois Central between Chicago and Cairo did not pass through a single settlement of more than 100 inhabitants, and it passed near only three settlements of any importance. From the junction of the Chicago branch, near the present city of Centralia, to Galena, the 324-mile route encountered only eight towns or villages of more than 100 inhabitants. Aside from these few small towns, the route traversed a wild and desolate region over which deer and wild game roamed at will and one might travel for a whole day without coming in sight of a human habitation.

The building of a pioneer railroad across the prairies of Illinois was a formidable undertaking for that early day. Working methods were crude and means of transporting men and material difficult. Laborers were recruited in New York, Boston, New Orleans and other distant cities—hardy Irishmen, thrifty Scots, industrious Germans and Scandinavians, many fresh from the old countries. One contractor brought 1,000 men direct from Ireland. The railway company, with an eye to settling up its territory, gave preference to men with families. Arriving in Illinois by rail, lake or river, these men were sent overland in prairie wagons to the numerous construction camps along the route. At times, as many as 10,000 workmen were employed on the construction. It is estimated that within a period of five years at least 100,000 men were brought to Illinois to work on the railroad.

The hilly, wooded country and the bottomlands between the Big Muddy River and Cairo presented greater difficulties than any other section of the railroad. Materials were floated up the Cache River to the site of the road and the rails were laid northward and southward from that point, construction starting in 1852. It is of interest that the engineer in charge of the work there was Colonel Lewis W. Ashley, after whom the town of Ashley was named. He was assisted by Adam, John and Fred Buck, later prominent merchants of Cobden.

When the railroad was finished, the service provided by the railroad was worthy of note. A trip from Anna and Jonesboro to Chicago, formerly measured in weeks, was now a 24-hour ride. Merchants were shouting from the housetops that their wares came "all the way by the rail road." Freight traffic increased by leaps and bounds, and delivery of merchandise from the up-and-coming wholesale houses in Chicago could be had in only four or five days.

Anna, named after the wife of Winstead Davie, who owned most of the land that comprises the present townsite, was nonexistent in 1850; a census

taken during August, 1855, showed a population of 251 persons. It was rapidly becoming a worthy rival of its older and more established neighbor, Jonesboro. Anna was later to be the birthplace of John Jeremiah Pelley, who started as a baggage-man there for the Illinois Central, worked to a vice-presidency of the railroad, later became the president of two great railroads, and, until his death, president of the Association of American Railroads in Washington, D. C. The station at Anna is now named Pelley Station in his honor.

On January 15, 1855, with the completion of the Amboy-Freeport line, a continuous railroad from Cairo to Galena was opened. On June 11, the rails reached the Mississippi River opposite Dubuque, and on June 25, the section between Champaign and Mattoon was opened. The last rail in the construction of the original lines of the Illinois Central Railroad was spiked into place near Mason, Illinois, on September 27, 1856—only five years and eight months after the railway company received its charter—signalizing the completion of the longest railroad on the American continent at that time, 705 miles, all in Illinois. These lines have been known from the beginning as the "Charter Lines," and are called that to this day.

The joy with which the early settlers hailed the coming of the "Iron Horse," knew no bounds. It brought to an end, once and for all, the isolation they had experienced on the lonely prairies. It brought the merchandise and the markets of the world to their doors. It put an end to the long and difficult journeys to distant markets. It enhanced the value of their land. It brought new neighbors, new comforts, new interests and new opportunities.

In order to promote the development of its ter-

ritory, so essential to its success, the Illinois Central launched a widespread publicity campaign—the first important publicity campaign ever undertaken by an American railroad—for the purpose of drawing attention to the climate, resources and opportunities of this then "far western country."

The advertising columns of many newspapers, farm journals and magazines were used in the effort. Thus, into tens of thousands of homes in New England, New York, Pennsylvania, the Southland, as well as in England, Ireland, Scotland, Germany, Sweden, and Norway, went these Illinois Central advertisements, carrying illustrations of luxurious crops of grain, shocks of wheat, baskets brimming with corn, vegetables piled high, and with horses and cattle grazing on the fertile prairies—a scene of peace and plenty, beckoning the hardy sons of toil to "Illinois, the Garden State of America."

So extensive and widespread were the Railroad's efforts to attract settlers that nearly every person in the United States and millions in foreign countries must have read or heard a great deal about Illinois and its varied opportunities. How many thousands of persons migrated to the state as a result of the construction of the railroad and its publicity campaign, no one will ever know, but unquestionably the number was very large. Hardly was the construction of the railroad well under way before a tide of migration of unprecedented proportions set in toward Illinois.

The Illinois Central was the first of the so-called Land Grant roads and the largest railroad projected in its day. Congress, September, 1850, granted more than 2,500,000 acres of public land to Illinois to aid in the construction of the railroad. This land, in turn, was transferred to the railway company,



Left—An Illinois Central freight steams south from Carbondale.

—Photo by Allen Richards, Carbondale

Right—The Illinois Central's streamliner, City of New Orleans, winds its way through the beautiful Southern Illinois Ozark country as travelers relax in big reclining seats enjoying the view along the Main Line of Mid-America.



but not without several provisions which would assure substantial and permanent benefits to both the state and the federal government. Among the provisions were stipulations that the railroad should be completed within a period of six years; that the railway company would pay into the state treasury 5 per cent of its gross operating revenues received for the transportation of passengers, freight, express and mails, plus an additional state tax that brought the total up to 7 percent; that the railroad would transport United States troops and property at one-half of standard passenger and freight rates, and that the railroad would transport United States Mails at 20 per cent less than standard rates. Thus, through the years, the state and federal government received back many times the value of the lands included in the grant.

Also under the provisions of the federal grant, the Illinois Central could not offer any of its lands for sale until all government lands, in alternate sections, within six miles of the railroad, had been sold. In 1850 the government owned 11,500,000 acres of wild land in Illinois, which had been offered to the public for twenty years, without purchasers, at \$1.25 per acre. Holders of government war script could purchase these lands for 62½ cents an acre.

Following the passage of the land-grant bill, the government withdrew from the market all lands within six miles of the proposed railroad. When again put on the market, in the fall of 1852, they were offered and quickly sold at \$2.50 an acre, or for two to four times the prices which no one was willing to pay before the railroad was assured.

Thus the government lost nothing by the transfer of the lands to Illinois in return for the assurance that a railroad would be built through these vast areas of wild lands in the interior of the state. On the contrary, the government profited by the ready sale, at increased prices, of the millions of acres which it retained.

When the Illinois Central lands were placed on the market in the summer of 1854, the land office at Chicago was besieged by applicants eager to take advantage of the railroad's low prices and liberal credit terms under which some of the richest farm lands in Illinois could be purchased for a down payment of only 50 cents an acre, with seven years in which to pay the remainder.

Where but a short time ago spread a desolate, unpeopled waste, the newcomer now beheld many evidences of human enterprise. Assured of reliable, year-round railroad transportation service, the manufacturer and the mine operator came to add their substantial influence to the building of the new communities.

Centralia was typical of the energizing influence the Illinois Central brought to the state. Centralia was an unredeemed prairie at the beginning of 1854; a railway station in midsummer; a few months later a fast-growing town of 1,900 inhabitants, with 275 dwellings, eleven stores, three hotels, two churches, a railway repair shop, a flour mill and a school. Two hundred and twenty-five farms were opened in the vicinity within two years.

When the railroad was surveyed, Carbondale

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was not on the map. In another five years its population had quadrupled.

In a single decade, from 1850 to 1860, the population of Illinois more than doubled. The 1880 census recorded a total state population of 3,077,871 and by 1900 this had grown to 4,821,550. The next decade saw this number swell to 5,638,591 and today it is over eight million.

Still more striking was the agricultural and industrial growth of Illinois as a result of railway development and the activities of the Illinois Central's colonization, agricultural and industrial departments.

As early as 1855 the Illinois Central had promoted the first state agricultural fair ever held in Illinois—at Chicago. Three years later Centralia was the site selected for the first state fair to be held in "Egypt." The Illinois Central co-operated with the State Agricultural Society and others in making these fairs a success. Centralia was then a small town, without sufficient accommodations for either exhibits or visitors. To meet these needs, the Illinois Central housed the exhibits in its new shop buildings, which were by far the largest buildings there at the time. To provide sleeping accommodations, the railroad furnished two and one-half miles of cars on its sidetracks. Exhibits of various kinds were transported free to and from the fair; so that everyone might view the exhibits and become better acquainted with the agricultural possibilities of the state. Passengers were carried free of charge from any station within one hundred miles to Centralia and return. The State Agricultural Society declared in a resolution that such liberality was unprecedented. So successful were these fairs and excursions that the railroad in later years extended the policy to Iowa, Mississippi, Tennessee, and other states.

In 1850, about 5 million acres, or 14 per cent of the land area of Illinois, were classed as improved. Ten years later more than 13 million acres, or 37 per cent of Illinois' area, were improved. Today, more than 32 million acres or 85 per cent of the state's area is in cultivation. Rich black soil produces a cash income of close to two billion dollars annually and farm values are more than two times greater than the average throughout the United States. No other state has such a large proportion of cultivated land.

The development of manufactures is another striking phase of progress. Today, more than six billion dollars worth of manufactured goods roll annually from Illinois plants. In 1850, the total value of manufactured products in the 32 counties traversed by the Illinois Central amounted to slightly more than 6 million dollars. Today, Illinois ranks third in the nation in the value of her manufactured goods and first of all states in the Middle West.

In 1850, aside from the lead mines near Galena, and two or three small coal mines in the vicinity of East St. Louis, the vast mineral resources of Illinois were almost wholly untouched. Railway transportation, providing direct year-round service from the mines and quarries to every market in the country, enabled these hidden reservoirs of

wealth to be developed. The greatest fluorspar mines in the world are in Southern Illinois as well as the largest shaft mine in the world, located in Franklin County in the heart of the Southern Illinois coal region, both areas served by the Illinois Central. Today, the value of the minerals mined in Illinois amount to more than 530 million dollars.

The growth of the coal-mining industry of Southern Illinois was coincident with the development of the Illinois Central Railroad. It could be said that the railroad has grown up with coal. When the railroad was organized in 1851, coal mining in the Mississippi Valley was confined to a little scraping of surface coal. The Illinois Central employed a geologist thoroughly to chart all the coal deposits along its line and engaged experienced coal miners from the East to sink coal shafts, or "bores" as they were called in that day, on Illinois Central land at DuQuoin. This is believed to be the first shaft mine in Illinois. The rest of the story is, of course, that the experiments succeeded. Coal became the accepted fuel for the American locomotive. At present the Illinois Central buys well over a million dollars worth of coal each month.

Over the years the railroad has worked closely with mine operators to extend the use of coal as industrial fuel. Early shipments were made in boxcars, then flat cars were equipped with wooden sides. Today the Illinois Central has more than 26,000 cars, many of them built at its Centralia Shop, for the use of the more than 100 coal mines on its lines in Illinois, Kentucky, Indiana and Alabama. The railroad carries a ton of coal 100 miles today for no more than it cost to carry it 20 miles nearly a century ago.

The railroad's trust in the future of coal has been well placed. For many years it has been its single greatest tonnage. Through its use, industry has flourished throughout the Mississippi Valley. Under the stimulus of railway development and the tremendous industrial expansion which followed, coal production in Illinois mounted from 400,000 tons in 1855, to 6 million tons in 1880, and more than 25 million tons in 1900, with the Illinois Central ranking throughout this period as the leading consumer of coal in the state.

Illinois was the birthplace of railway refrigeration, which represented another great forward step in transportation. Thanks to the refrigerator car, Illinois now supplies the table of millions of distant homes with meats, fresh eggs, dairy products, peaches, apples and other perishable products. The first shipment of fruit under refrigeration upon any railroad in the United States was made from Cobden, Illinois, to Chicago over the Illinois Central in 1866. The shipment consisted of strawberries, packed in several large wooden chests, each fitted with a compartment for ice. The berries brought high prices, and from that time forward fruit shipments under refrigeration increased rapidly. In 1867, the Illinois Central began operating the "Thunderbolt Express," the first all-strawberry train ever operated in the country, between Southern Illinois and Chicago.

From these small beginnings has developed an industry of gigantic proportion involving the move-

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In these and in numerous other ways, the railroads have been marching steadily forward, keeping pace with the nation's progress. In recent years their progress has not been so much in the extension of new lines as in increasing the capacity and efficiency of established lines through the construction of additional tracks, the enlargement of shop and yard facilities, the installation of heavier rails, the use of more powerful locomotives and cars, and the speeding up of passenger, freight, express and mail service.

Today, the Illinois Central operates 6,500 miles of railroad in 14 states. Greater Egypt is served by the St. Louis Division of the Illinois Central, with headquarters at Carbondale. The Division's 1,124 miles of track along 562 miles of road embrace the main line of the railroad between Centralia, Carbondale and Cairo; the Edgewood cut-off, high-speed freight line between Metropolis and Bluford; the St. Louis District between Carbondale, DuQuoin and East St. Louis; the Murphysboro line to Gale and the coal fields which lie on both sides of the main line at DuQuoin. Superintendent J. F. Sharkey directs the activities of the Division's 3,000 employees who, as a composite group, are devoted to providing the best in railroad transportation service to Greater Egypt.

The Illinois Central makes a substantial annual contribution to Egyptland in the form of wages paid

its employees and taxes paid in counties through which the railroad operates. Wages paid St. Louis Division employees, including Centralia Shop and storehouse, in 1950 amounted to approximately \$12,400,000. During 1949, local property taxes paid by the railroad in 17 of the counties through which the St. Louis Division operates, amounted to more than \$570,000. This figure does not include the Egyptland proportion of the more than \$4,000,000 the railroad pays annually to the State under the provisions of the charter-line grant.

Through the medium of the Illinois Central, Greater Egypt is serviced with the finest passenger and freight service it is possible to provide. As in the early days of the planning and building of the Illinois Central, the management has a zealous interest in the 250,000 people and the financial health of the territory it serves.

Perhaps this interest can be summed up in no better way than to quote from a talk given by Illinois Central's president, Wayne A. Johnston, a native of Illinois. Said Johnston:

"It is sound railroad management to plan and develop traffic possibilities for the years ahead. This policy is the only policy that can insure prosperity for both the railroad and the communities it serves. Our future economic wellbeing depends upon our vision and resourcefulness in keeping American industry and agriculture at capacity production to preserve maximum levels of employment and a higher standard of living for our people."

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# IDOLS OF EGYPT

## XVI. Zadok Casey

By N. W. DRAPER  
*Southern Illinois Educator*

*"Zadok, the high priest, called the tribes of Egypt together and spoke. Then all the people cried aloud Amen."* Quoted from the CHRONICLES of Joseph G. Bowman, Lawrenceville lawyer.

WHAT seemed a mere trickle of immigrants to the lower Ohio Valley in pre-Revolutionary days became a swelling stream after the War of 1812. Worn and haggard from the aftermath of war, they sought with great daring the cheap lands and future homes that promised them peace and security beyond the sunset shadows of the Blue Ridge Mountains. In the last decade of the century both Kentucky and Tennessee had donned the crest of Statehood, and in 1787 the Continental Congress had organized the vast interior empire, seized by Clark from Britain, into the "Northwest Territory." Many of the new immigrants moving west and north scarcely squatted long enough in one State to gain "cabin rights" before they were lured by the greener fields of Indiana, Illinois, or adjacent areas. Trails of the buffalo and the Indian became widened and deepened for the ox-cart, the horse, and the pioneer—the man on foot.

As we lift the history and tradition from the debris of the past century and the late eighteenth, we are prone to think that such tales of heroism belong to the feats of super-men, legendary men. But, of those coming into Southern Illinois, few have been more locally conspicuous or noteworthy in mastering pioneer handicaps than the Honorable Zadok Casey, of Mount Vernon, Jefferson County. He towers as a scion of the Casey family "one of the most numerous perhaps, as well as the most prominent of all pioneer families of this county."

Abner Casey as compiled from Johnson's Notes by William H. Perrin in his *History of Jefferson County* (1883), was the progenitor of the family in America coming from his native County Tyrone, Ireland, where he had married a Welsh lady, both of whom "possessed great physical and mental powers." Coming to America some twenty years before the American Revolution, they settled in Virginia near the Roanoke River in the southern part of the state and were close neighbors to the family of Edmund Randolph, member of the Continental Congress, Governor of Virginia, and later Attorney General in Washington's cabinet. Three or more

children were born to the Caseys while there: Levi, Randolph, and a daughter. Later, for reason not recorded, but likely in response to the immigrant tendency of the time to spread fan-like to the newer colonies south, they removed to near Spartanburg, South Carolina, about 1760. There they remained until near the end of the Revolution, during which the sons fought valiantly for Independence. Levi, as colonel, commanded a regiment of South Carolina troops. A younger son, Moses, was captain of a company, and Randolph, a sergeant, had the distinction of serving under that wily "Swamp Fox," General Francis Marion, and was present on that formal-informal occasion when the General is reputed to have served his British officer guest the exclusive menu of sweet potatoes hot from the ashes, on a piece of bark! Late in the War young Randolph fought heroically in the Carolina and Georgia campaigns.

By the marriage of Randolph Casey to Mary Jane Pennington, they became the parents of eight children: Levi, Randolph, Isaac, Abraham, Charity, Hiram, Samuel, and Zadok, all of whom were born in South Carolina, except Zadok, who was born in Georgia, where the family had removed about 1795, after the Revolution. The family remained there until near the end of the century when once more they migrated to Smith County, Tennessee, where the father Randolph died.

Hiram Casey was the only one of the children who remained in Tennessee. All the others at intervals removed to Illinois: Isaac, Samuel, and Zadok to Jefferson County. Isaac, with his sons William and Thomas, from near Cave in Rock, came to the site of Mt. Vernon in the autumn of 1816, in search of Black's Prairie, which a man by that name had described to them in very glowing terms, but after persistent search they were unable to find it. However, after returning home they came again the next year and planted a small patch of prairie near the site of the old First Methodist Church on Eleventh Street, off Main, in Mt. Vernon. That incident may have motivated young Zadok

and his little family, who somehow found their way into this community in the spring of the same year.

Meager is the information relative to Zadok's journey from the Cumberland foothills of Smith County, Tennessee, to the Illinois country—not yet a State until the following year. They crossed the stretches of wilderness and prairie, a portion of which he was later to help carve into the county of Jefferson. Family data and local history remain silent as to the route he chose, the companions he had, or of visits on the way. Likely the family would cross the Ohio by ferry at, or near, Cave in Rock, close to which his brother Isaac lived. But any patched-up narrative would read like a fragment of some story book out of the heroic past.

Young Zadok was born somewhere in Georgia, March 7, 1796. Late in his nineteenth year he was married to Rachel King, daughter of Samuel King. Johnson's Notes record that Zadok was very poor and that after the death of his father Randolph, he had the care of his mother, who it is said he brought with him to Illinois, a feat difficult to explain, since Perrin relates that "They came here, the wife riding the only horse he was able to possess, and carrying the child (Samuel K.) and their all of earthly goods, particularly the skillet, strapped to the saddle, and in front of this caravan walked the young husband and father with the rifle upon his shoulder." What a picture! But it doesn't account for his mother. It is further related that on arriving in the environs of the present Mt. Vernon, he built his camp fire at the side of a massive log where his wife prepared their first evening meal. Apparently engrossed with the deep and noble purpose for which he had brought his little family into this strange, if not forbidden, country, he stepped aside from their improvised camp that evening after supper and dropping to his knees prayed that he and his family might have Heaven's blessing on their undertaking for future "happiness, health, and security," and that he personally might prove a Christian man, sincere, upright, and honorable.

Until he could build a pole cabin, his small family lived at the log camp above mentioned. John A. Wall, in his *Wall's History of Jefferson County, Illinois*, quoting Johnson, accounts for the pole cabin by stating that there was no one near enough to help him raise a house of logs. So, "he made a floor of puncheons, a door of clapboards, beds of scaffolds, a dirt hearth and a stick chimney, which when provided with their skillet and shovel, the family commenced living at home in Shiloh Township."

Before coming to Illinois Zadok Casey had become a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and preached on occasion "with power and influence" so long as he lived. Characteristic of so many pioneer ministers, he was quite illiterate, but he had a passion for knowledge. His wife taught him his ABC's. Similar to Lincoln, and a few years his senior, he would lie on the floor of his pole cabin, book in hand, before the evening fire, to gratify his thirst for learning, which "eventually led him to become an excellent scholar." His educational growth must in part be attributed to the instructions of a linguist, James Douglas who was educa-

ted in the East and, while teaching at old Shiloh, became a boarder at the Casey homestead. Once more, if Abraham Lincoln was Mentor Graham's "most advanced learner," scarcely less was Zadok Casey that of James Douglas.

This young student, farmer, minister, was physically strong, industrious, and actuated with a keen desire for thrift. These qualities, blended with his high integrity and sense of justice, early gave him a position of prestige in his home community and in the affairs of State. A later friend, Usher Linder, in his *Reminiscences* offers this word picture of Zadok Casey: "of fine physical form, about six feet high, as straight as an arrow, and of as imposing appearance as I ever saw." He came pioneering into a part of the organized Territory of Illinois that was not admitted into the Union until December 3, 1818, the year following his arrival. And Jefferson County was not established until March 26, 1819, the first government of which Zadok Casey, as one of the three county commissioners, helped to organize.

Indians were yet common in the area. They used to camp on the Casey land near Mulberry Hill, a few miles north and west of Mt. Vernon, known in Civil War days and after, as the John R. Moss farm. In the fall of the year the Indians would come to hunt on Camp Branch, a tributary of Harper's Creek, and the small stream near which Zadok Casey built his pole cabin on what he called Red Bud Hill. No violence of the Red Men towards the whites is known in this part of the country, except their alleged murder of Andrew Moore, in whose memory Moore's Prairie Township of Jefferson County, was later named.

In his early ministerial experience the Reverend Mr. Casey once invited every man, woman, and child in the sparsely settled Jefferson County to hear him preach in a grove near the southwest corner of the present courthouse square. "All came," Wall says, "to hear a very excellent sermon," but no record is found to indicate the number present nor the theme he used.

Local history brims with examples of the service he rendered in behalf of this growing community. He, with the other two elected county commissioners, Fleming Greenwood and Joseph Jordan, did much in making Mt. Vernon the seat of government. Officially, it was they who so named the village. On June 8, 1819, they chose a site for county buildings upon the south quarter of Section 29, Range 3, Town 2, on land owned by William Casey, a nephew of the commissioner. William had appeared before them and made a personal donation of 20 acres of land to be laid off in lots and sold for the purpose of paying for public buildings in Jefferson County.

To stimulate the sale of town lots the commissioners directed that an advertisement be placed in the *Illinois Emigrant* published at Shawneetown, to run for three weeks previous to the lot sale, and that fifty copies of said advertisement be printed in handbills and sent to different parts of the county!

The commissioners further ordered that "since it is inconvenient for several reasons to hold a court

in a private home . . . the building of a courthouse should be let Friday, June 25, 1819, to be 18x20 feet, 13 feet high, to be built of hughed [sic] logs that will face from 10 to 12 inches, closely notched down, to have a good roof, made of boards . . . one door and one window cut and faced and to them good shutters hung of rough planks, the house and all the work about it, done in a workman-like manner."

A courthouse having been provided for, the commissioners also let the contract for a jail, the stipulations, though difficult to visualize, in part required "the first floor to be composed of two layers of timber squared to 18 inches laid crosswise . . . and covered with two inch planks closely laid and spiked to the floor to be sunk within six inches of the earth, the wall to be composed of lumber to be squared to 12 inches of which two walls are to be built 13 inches apart, the vacancy between which is to be filled with timbers not less than two inches square to stand perpendicularly to the wall to be built in the way above described, ten feet high to be laid as close as possible on which a second floor is to be made of 12 inch square timber . . . the room described above is intended to be a dungeon. The jail also contained a second floor."

March 4, 1823, Zadok Casey and Joseph Jordan were appointed overseers for the poor in Jefferson County. Among other citizens, Mr. Casey was one of the "hands" named to work the Covington road between two points, and similarly the Saline and Carlyle roads, and later, on the Covington road between Mt. Vernon and the Middle Fork of Muddy. Meantime a change in the route of the Carlyle road made it pass the home of Casey on Mulberry Hill.

That Commissioner Casey played another official role in the local government is revealed by the marriage records of Jefferson County, dated January 30, 1820, when he officiated as justice of the peace at the wedding of Launcelot Foster and Lucy Johnson. The first wedding in which he was the officiating clergyman was performed September 2, 1823.

The Reverend Mr. Casey apparently did not succeed himself as commissioner after his term expired in 1820, since that marks the year in which his rather active career in state politics began. He entered the race for the lower house of the legislature, and with three representatives to be elected in his district, he was among the fourteen who also ran. However, at the next election in 1822 he defeated the incumbent, Dr. William B. McLean of White County, and Casey was reelected in 1824. In 1826 he was elected to the Illinois state senate for four years, and 1830 was chosen as lieutenant governor. Indicative of his popularity in Jefferson County, he is said to have received practically every vote but one in that election—his own plus fifteen votes for Slocumb—more than 94% for Casey. Perrin states that he "wielded a wider influence on the stump than he had in the pulpit." Theodore Calvin Pease in his *The Frontier State*, 1818-1848, page 131, remarks that John Reynolds in his campaign for the governorship suggested that his opponent, William Kinney, and the Rev. Zadok Casey, can-



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dicate for lieutenant governor, "be decried as ministers of the gospel who meddled with politics."

Relevant to Casey's election as lieutenant governor, the reader is reminded that those were the days of the General Andrew Jackson regime (1830), when the two candidates from Belleville, Reynolds and Kinney, sought the governorship; whereas, Casey was opposed by Rigdon B. Slocumb of Wayne County for the office of lieutenant governor. Reynolds and Slocumb represented the contemptuously-known "Halfbreed" ticket and Kinney and Casey the "Stalwart" ticket. Reynolds and Slocumb were Jacksonian Democrats; Kinney and Casey were more nearly Democrats of the Jeffersonian type. Singularly enough, the anti-Jackson Democrats pinned their faith to Reynolds, and perhaps incident to the integrity and political sagacity of Casey, he was elected lieutenant governor. Thus these unsuspected political bedfellows became the chief executive officers of the State until March 1, 1833, when Lieutenant Governor Casey resigned to take his seat in Congress from the newly-created Second District which he had the honor to help create in 1832, an apportionment based on the U. S. census of 1830. He was elected and received 383 of the 384 votes cast in his own county, and 46% of the district vote. Rather coincidentally, Governor Reynolds entered the congressional race two years later from his home district, and he also was elected in the summer of 1834 when Congressman Casey was reelected. Reynolds did not resign, however, until November 17, 1834, just eighteen days before his term expired.

Congressman Casey served his constituents so faithfully and well that he was returned to Capitol Hill in 1834, 1836, 1838, and 1841. But his voting in favor of the National Bankrupt Law, against the National Bank and the Independent Treasury, is said to have accounted for his defeat in 1843.

That his campaign was no bed of roses after his years of service in Congress, is evident from the numerous criticisms from the opposition after his defeat. "In the Second District McClelland (Gallatin County) as convention candidate beat Zadok Casey 6,364 to 3,629. Casey was still trying to play between the Whigs and Democrats, and both expressed pleasure at his defeat." Another comment was: "Zadok Casey, the Democrat, the Whig, the Conservative, the all-things-to-all-men, is now beaten for the first time in his life and badly beaten too!" Again on page 284 of *The Frontier State*, Congressman Casey is subjected to harsh criticism for his independent political attitudes on the current national issues: ". . . The congressional elections of 1841 especially had marked the end of an era. . . . In the second district Zadok Casey, with a very nondescript record in congress, was barely successful over Stinson H. Anderson, receiving 7,121 votes to 6,949 for his opponent. Casey had finally been read out of the party by the *State Register* which pronounced him no better than a Whig, evidencing his declaration for a United States Bank, his course on the sub-treasury, and his somewhat underhanded attempt to secure the speakership of the House. The Whigs were disposed to give him support on the ground assigned by *The Sangamon*



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*Journal* that he was on at least one Whig measure."

A man of strong personal convictions, Zadok Casey did not easily bestir himself to espouse a new dogma, political or otherwise. There came in the midst of his political career the state political convention, an offshoot of the Jacksonian method of naming political candidates to which Casey was opposed. In the year 1838 when his opposition to the plan was challenged, he replied that his candidacy was already announced and approved by the Van Buren administration which was pledged to continue the Jacksonian policies. "The secret," says Pease, "was that Casey's strength in his district was so great that neither Judge Samuel McRoberts nor Judge Sidney Breese dared to run against him."

After Congressman Casey's defeat in 1843 and during his temporary political respite for a few years thereafter, he, with Judge Walter B. Scates and F. S. Casey, was elected as a delegate to the Illinois Constitutional Convention over which he presided in the year 1847. It was by their joint influence that the first of the three grand divisions of the State Supreme Court (now the Appellate Court, Fourth District) was established in Mt. Vernon.

Within the years of ex-Congressman Casey's varied career, he maintained his personal and community activities in his home county and city. For nearly a quarter of a century after the Caseys came to Illinois, the sale of public lands was very slow. No land was entered in Mt. Vernon Township for at least seven years after the county was organized in 1819, when the first entry was made in 1826 by Isaac Casey, brother of Zadok. "Land was plenty and a man settled wherever he pleased." Ejectment was unheard of. Scattering entries were made from 1831 to 1838 when new impetus was given to buying cheap land, much of it from \$1.25 to \$2.00 per acre. More than 75 entries were made within the next four years, Zadok Casey among the investors. Jefferson County deed books show numerous land transfers in which he and his wife, Rachel Casey, were the grantees or the grantors. Some of the most valuable town lots in the city are comprised in the First and Second Casey Additions, the most conspicuous of which is the site of the former Supreme Court building, donated to the State of Illinois and for which Jefferson County records show no deed to indicate the transfer. The Zadok Caseys also donated lots for the Presbyterian congregation whose building formerly stood across east from the Supreme Court building on Fourteenth Street, and too, for the First Methodist church on the west side of North Eleventh Street, off Main.

Though Mt. Vernon children first went to school for some ten years in Shiloh Township, a log cabin was erected in 1830-31 south of General Pavey's residence where the town's first school opened the following year. In February 1839, the legislature passed the Act incorporating an Academy for Mt. Vernon. Trustees named to administer the institution included Zadok Casey and nine other representative citizens. The first "professor" was a Yale graduate and minister of the M. E. Church, the Rev. Lewis Dwight, who later married Trustee Casey's



The Zadok Casey residence, Mt. Vernon, Illinois.

Pavelyes Photo

oldest daughter Mahala. Short tenures characterized the several succeeding principals, the last of whom was the eloquent Robert G. Ingersoll, in 1853. The financial career of the Academy, says Perrin, "was inglorious," and as a student avers he "received the only blow" he ever had while in school. "Governor" Casey, as locally known, was the donor of a small chemical laboratory, valued at perhaps \$100.

Not despairing in the failure of the first effort toward higher education in their home city, Casey again heads the list of trustees in February, 1855, when a charter was granted by the Illinois Legislature for establishing the "Mt. Vernon Academy." The old M. E. Church had been built with the purpose of using the three lower rooms for a school, which plan came to fruition in making that the town's second Academy. After a few years it reverted into a common school.

For a man interested in as many enterprises as was Zadok Casey, one finds it difficult to record the events of his career in chronological sequence. While yet the presiding officer of the Illinois State Senate, in 1832, he voted against building the Illinois and Michigan Canal. Gurdon S. Hubbard, representative from Vermillion County and transportation enthusiast, had introduced the bill in the lower house which passed it by a majority of sixteen. The senate vote, however, was tied, leaving the fate of the bill to the lieutenant governor. Proponents of such a bill living mainly in the north end of the state, finally saw the Illinois and Michigan Canal, thanks to government assistance, an internal waterway that was in use until supplanted by the Illinois Waterway from Lake Michigan to the Mississippi River.

After the canal building cycle had somewhat subsided over the state, and elsewhere, a new impetus came for other forms of internal improvement, particularly for railroads—mostly on paper. Several east-west lines were projected across Illinois. Enthusiasm so zoomed that the remotest hamlet was scarcely without hope of the appearance of the approaching "iron horse!" In 1836 the "Central Railroad," the great grandfather of the Illinois Central, was chartered. From the first promotion

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of this project, Casey was a strong supporter of the plan.

"The colorful Zadok Casey, a backwoods preacher who had abandoned the pulpit for the stump and was now [1836] representing Illinois in Congress," according to Corliss in *Main Line of Mid-America*, was a member of the committee on public lands. "Reynolds had introduced a bill in Congress which would grant to the Central Railroad a right-of-way through the public lands of Illinois, with the privilege of purchasing such adjacent lands as the railroad might require.

"In reporting the Reynolds' bill out of committee Casey said:

"When the Mississippi and Ohio rivers are fast bound in ice, troops and munitions of war can be transferred with a rapidity and dispatch, unknown in water transportation, to the frontiers of Illinois, Wisconsin, and northern Missouri. . . . It is in contemplation to extend the road from the mouth of the Ohio to Nashville . . . to meet the projected road from New Orleans and to unite with branches of the great Charleston project and contemplated Baltimore & Ohio and Richmond railroads. . . .

"This road will be regarded as the Grand Stem, from which will diverge works of a similar kind, to connect with every road and canal of importance which the enterprise of the neighboring states may undertake, pointing in the direction of Illinois."

Both Casey and Reynolds worked for its passage in Congress; they failed in their efforts to bring the bill to a vote.

Congressman Casey after serving five terms in the national House of Representatives, and suffering defeat in 1843, was returned again to the lower house of the Illinois legislature in 1848, at Springfield. His previous service had been at Vandalia. He became the able speaker of that house. Both political and bad economic conditions stubbornly prevailed from 1836, when the Central Railway was first chartered, to February 1851 when it was incorporated as the Illinois Central Railroad Company by the State of Illinois. Within the period came the "Panic of '37," and its aftermath, which critically slowed local investment, notably government land sales.

To remedy the situation, Congress in 1850 passed a law ceding government swamp lands in Illinois "for educational and internal improvements." Through the few telegraph offices in Illinois, on September 20, 1850, flashed the message "President Fillmore has signed the Central Railroad Bill!" Quoting again from Corliss: "Six days after President Fillmore signed the Illinois land-grant bill the town of Mount Vernon, seat of Jefferson County, then boasting three hundred inhabitants, was the scene of a rousing railroad convention, at which were discussed the provisions and implications of the measure and its impact upon Illinois and the nation. With the eloquent Zadok Casey presiding, the convention appointed a committee consisting of Judge Sidney Breese, William S. Wait, Stephen T. Logan, Lincoln's second law partner, and other prominent railroad advocates to confer with Governor Augustus C. French on ways and means of get-

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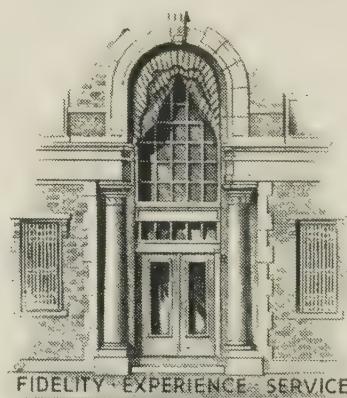
ting the Central Railroad project under way with the least possible delay."

The State in turn made a similar cession to the counties for similar purposes. In 1855 an election was held in Jefferson County to pass upon the question of donating some 19,000 acres of said lands within the county for the purpose of building a railroad. The proposition carried and Zadok Casey having been a State Senator, was joined by other forward-looking citizens who obtained a charter for the Sangamon and Massac Railroad. The route of course was to pass through Jefferson County. Result: a failure with no discredit to the promoters.

The second effort in which the Senator was a charter member was known as the Mt. Vernon Railroad Company designed to build a railroad tapping the Illinois Central. Space forbids details but this project was also a failure. A third group of men including the Senator devised a plan for building the Belleville and Fairfield Railroad, which failed; and there were yet others. These persistent efforts, however, though dubbed failures at the time were not without very definite and tangible results in the matter of attracting capital (some of which was the get-rich-quick variety), making surveys, clearing right-of-ways, and building roadbeds. Today, several trunk lines passing through the county traverse the approximate surveys as first laid out. A number of the local promoters, sincere in their purpose to improve transportation, lost much effort and some of them substantial sums in the various enterprises, Senator Casey being one of the largest losers.

With all his experience as a pioneer citizen, Zadok Casey did not escape military adventure. Chief Black Hawk, in violating his Indian treaty with the United States Government, returned from west of the Mississippi to northern Illinois in the spring of 1832 and began raising an army to regain claims to his lands in the Rock River country. Settlers there feared imminent attack. Governor Reynolds, taking supreme command, called for troops and got quick response over the State. Jefferson County furnished a full volunteer company. Lieutenant Governor Casey entered as a private and was elected paymaster of the "Spy Battalion" commanded by Major John Dement. "Each man was to furnish his horse and gun . . . By the 15th of June the troops had reached their rendezvous and amounted to more than 3,000 men. . . The company from Jefferson County took part in the battle of Kellogg's Grove." Private Casey's horse was wounded obliging the rider to abandon his mount and fight for his own life against the Indians.

The Mt. Vernon Temperance Society was organized in March 1832. Zadok Casey, then lieutenant governor, headed the list of members and was the chief speaker at the first meeting. "The pledge was simply an agreement not to use intoxicating liquors as a beverage, nor traffic in them, nor provide them for others, etc." Within four years the organization, according to the records, showed a membership of over 300 subscribing to the pledge. During the Civil War period interest in the temperance organization declined but later revived, when



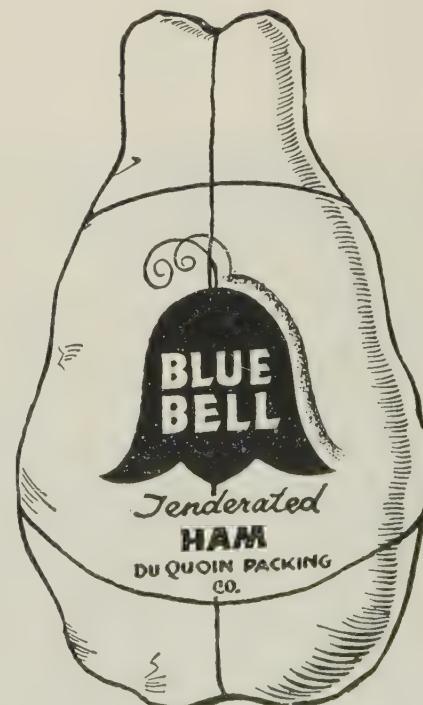
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among the lecturers of national reputation speaking in the city was Frances E. Willard.

Senator and Mrs. Casey were the parents of a fine and reputable family of eight children: Samuel K., Mahala, Mary Jane, Hiram R., Alice, Newton R., Thomas S., and John R. Mahala and Hiram preceded their father in death. The inscription on their mother's tombstone in the family plot reads: Rachel, wife of Z. Casey, born in Tennessee, September 29, 1797; died in Jefferson County, Illinois, January 26, 1868, aged 70 years, three months, seven days. A fitting epitaph follows expressing that time honored sentiment, "Her children rise up to call her blessed."

Samuel King Casey, the babe in arms of the 1817 trek to Illinois, became an attorney with offices in various Southern Illinois county seats, and was Democratic candidate for state office. In 1858, when the second state penitentiary was built at Joliet, Sam K. Casey obtained its lease at \$5,000 a year. Warden Casey was in charge for many years, and his youngest brother John followed him to Joliet to practice medicine.

Newton R. Casey studied medicine with Doctor John Grathrum of Mount Vernon and practiced at Benton. A few years after his marriage to Florida Rawlings of Shawneetown and Louisville, her father asked them to move to Mound City where he was laying out a town. Doctor Casey was active in local politics, elected mayor annually and was a delegate like his father to the national Democratic convention held at Charleston, S. C. in 1860. During the war he was assistant surgeon of the government hospital at Mound City, and he remembered the dying soldiers brought to his care by securing a state appropriation for a monument at the national cemetery nearby.

Thomas S. Casey also became a lawyer and served as colonel of the Tenth Illinois Volunteer Regiment. After the Civil War, he went into politics, first as prosecuting attorney in Mount Vernon,

then as circuit and appellate judge. Judge Casey lived in Springfield many years and served in the legislature where his father's parliamentary reputation pointed many a precedent and anecdote.

Mahala Casey Dwight's son Samuel L. Dwight was a leading attorney of Centralia and must have delighted the grandfather who raised him with the third generation's success in the public life of Illinois. A legislature without a Casey was almost unknown to our grandfathers, sometimes there were two, brothers or father and son.

William Perrin, local historian, offers unsparing praise to Zadok Casey, when he writes: "As a politician he was equally preeminent (as in religion) whether in the hustings, the Legislature, the State Senate or the Congress of the United States. He was respected whether as the humblest member of these new bodies, or as the master spirit of the important committee, or the orator and speaker upon the floor. Here as elsewhere he was a born leader among men, and his well-poised mind was never at fault—never was brought in question the justness of his leadership. . . A grand old man whose pure and exalted life is one of the most important chapters in the history of the Northwest for the study and contemplation of the youths of our country."

Death came to the distinguished Senator Casey while he was yet a member of the Illinois upper house, September 4, 1862, in Caseyville, St. Clair County, Illinois. Crepe hung from the door of his last family home at his much treasured Elm Hill, on West Broadway, in Mt. Vernon. The site is now marked by the Casey Junior High School, named in his honor. Among the sorrowing came both the lowly and the great. He was tenderly laid to rest at old Union cemetery, not far from where he had built his pole cabin less than a half century before. He was yet the adventurer: not through the unblazed forests of the Northwest Territory but to that "un-discover'd country from whose bourne no traveler returns."

On the shaft of the obelisk marking his last resting place is the following inscription: Born in the State of Georgia. At the age of six years they moved to Tennessee. In 1817 they moved to Jefferson County, Illinois. Was frequently a member of the Legislature in Illinois, was Lieutenant Governor of the State, a private in the Black Hawk War, ten years a member of Congress, a member of the State Senate. He was a man of great public and private worth, of irreproachable morals and integrity, and retained throughout his life, in an eminent degree the esteem of his fellow citizens. Born—March 7, 1796; Died—September 4, 1862.

Casey family burial plot, Union Cemetery  
Pavledes Photo



# Man-Made Mountains

By LORRAINE WATERS

THE trees of autumn flashed red and gold in the warm sun as the streamliner sped through the gentle-rolling countryside. Then a sharp turn in the rails brought a sudden change of scenery. A little boy pressed his face against the window of the train and exclaimed breathlessly, "Look, mommie, mountains." But it was not the Illinois Ozarks that held his rapt attention. The mountains that he pointed to so enthusiastically were the man-made mountains of Southern Illinois, a product of the coal stripping industry.

Strip mining is merely a form of open-cut mining. It is the working of mineral deposits which either outcrop at the surface of the ground or are covered by a shallow layer of earth and rock which is known as "overburden" and which must be removed before the ore can be mined, the cost of mining depending largely upon the amount of overburden removed. Open cut mining is one of the oldest methods of mining minerals and is widely used in Europe and America, but in the usual method the overburden is loaded by shovels or dragline excavators into cars to be hauled away and dumped.

The modern method employed by strip mines in the United States is quite different. By this method, the overburden is not loaded into conveyors at all but is cast aside by the giant electric shovels which remove it from the coal. Overburden as much as ten or twelve times the thickness of the coal seam has been removed in this way, the stripping shovels tossing the earth into mountainous "spoil banks."

The efficiency of operation in a well equipped strip mine allows for little waste of time or coal. The Southwestern Illinois Coal Company's mine near Percy, Illinois, lives up to its name—Streamline mine. Here an average of 50 feet overburden is removed before the surface of the coal is exposed. In order to remove the overburden, drill crews drill vertically through the rock and soil and blast it into a loose mass which is removed by stripping shovels. The size of these shovels can be appreciated when you realize that an average of 90 days is required to assemble one shovel, construction crews working three shifts each day. Five months were required to assemble the newest shovel, but construction was delayed because of bad weather. These giant shovels remove the overburden in 40-cubic-yard "bites." Then, a caterpillar equipped with a broad scraper cleans the dirt from the coal. After the dirt has been removed, holes are drilled into the face of the coal, and the coal is loosened by powder blasts.

A smaller shovel loads the coal into enormous Diesel trucks which move in a continuous circuit from the shovel to the tipple. It takes only a few minutes to fill a truck. As each truck is filled, it moves forward to the coal tipple, and the next truck moves up to be loaded. Upon arriving at the tipple,

the trucks drive over an open bin. Doors on the bottom of the truck are opened and the coal drops into the bin, the truck stopping only for a few seconds to complete the operation.

From the bin, the coal is carried by an elevator up to the tipple where it is washed and sized. After being prepared for market, it is loaded into rail cars for shipment. A total of 857,504 tons was mined in 1949 even though the mine was on strike 83 days. The mine works continuously, three shifts of men working eight hours each day uncovering coal. It employs an average of 130 men and has brought new life to the surrounding towns where most of the shaft mines have ceased operating.

Strip mining is not a new phenomenon in Illinois. A few authorities believe that strip mines were opened here shortly after the Civil War, although it is now generally agreed that the first strip mining of any importance in this state was done by team and scrapers in the vicinities of Rock and Green Rivers in Henry County and near Danville in Vermilion County, some 80 years ago. It was not, however, until 1911 that the first strip mine offering coal for rail shipment was recorded. This shipment amounted to 45,153 tons.

The increase in tonnage was very gradual, and strip-coal mining in Illinois did not reach the million ton mark until 1923. In 1949, 12,835,980 tons, 28.6 percent of the total number of tons shipped in Illinois, were produced by the stripping method. Whereas only 17 strip mines recorded shipments of coal in 1929, and 26 in 1939, 45 are recorded for 1949. By January 1, 1950, 46,703 acres had been stripped in the state, and new mines have made their appearance since that date. Today, in spite of the increasing amount of land that is disrupted by the giant stripping shovels, most people have accepted this method of mining.

A few years ago, open cut coal mining was a "burning" issue. People were alarmed to see so much agricultural land mined and demanded that the mine operators level and revegetate the spoil banks. The battle for regulation was not confined to any one state. In Pennsylvania, the Bituminous Coal Open Pit Mining Conservation Law was enacted in 1945 and is still in effect. By this act, the coal operator is forced to post a bond in order to open a mining site. At the conclusion of the operation he must either restore the stripped land or forfeit his bond. Similar laws are enforced in West Virginia, Ohio, and Indiana.

In Illinois, a regulatory Strip Mining Act was passed on July 31, 1943. Among other things, this law required

Any person, firm, corporation or association engaged in "open cut" or "strip mining" in which the soil over or covering any bed or strata of coal is removed shall spread



Spoil banks of a strip mine.

*Peithman Photo*

such soil that the contour of the land is approximately the same as before the mining operation was begun.

Since this act went into effect during World War II, the mine operators argued that it was impractical and unconstitutional and furthermore that it was impossible for them to obtain the necessary machinery to spread the spoil banks to approximate the original contour of the land, due to the regulations of the War Production Board and Office of Price Administration. In the fall of 1946, the Supreme Court of Illinois declared the act unconstitutional, the council for the miners falling back on the Fourteenth Amendment as their chief weapon, claiming that the mine operators had been denied "equal protection of the law" and had been deprived of their property without "due process of law."

The pros and cons of strip-mining are familiar to most people and need only be summed up briefly here. Those who oppose this method of coal mining claim that the spoil banks damage the scenic beauty of the country side. They claim, too, that valuable farming land is forever ruined by the stripping shovels and that steep spoil banks are a hazard to safety. Furthermore, they believe that the lakes formed between spoil banks lower the water level for surrounding areas and that "acidic" waters of the strip-mine lakes, high in iron and sulphur content, often seep into adjoining lakes and streams thereby killing plant and animal life.

Mine operators, on the other hand, claim that the advantages of strip mining far outweigh its disadvantages. These advantages, which are many are more apparent to the mine operators than to the general public. One feature that can be appreciated by both the public and the operators is that there is less danger to the workmen in open cut mining than in underground mining. In addition to this, there is greater recovery of coal in the stripping method. For instance, only 40 to 60% of the coal can be safely removed in shaft mines while 80 to

95% can be recovered in strip mines. Greater recovery, along with larger units of machinery, make for greater production.

The restoration of spoil banks is a principal source of controversy in strip mining. Strip mine operators are generally opposed to leveling spoil banks. The arguments against this practice as set forth by the Coal Strippers Association of Illinois, an organization responsible for approximately 95% of the strip mining in this state, reflect the viewpoint of coal operators in other states. The Coal Strippers point out that the leveling of spoil banks is economically unsound and has only esthetic value. They estimate that the cost of completely restoring spoil banks, leveling and revegetating, would amount to not less than \$1,200 per acre.

Their arguments are not without merit. Even when the land is leveled, the presence of large boulders and broken stone near the surface of the land prevents its utilization for farming purposes. Furthermore, foresters are inclined to believe that trees grow as well, if not better, on unleveled banks as on those that have been leveled. Then too, unless leveled spoil banks are immediately planted in grass, erosion is greater than otherwise.

The strippers deny that the strip-mine ponds lower the general water level or that there is any great danger of mine lakes poisoning other streams and lakes, pointing out that mine lakes help conserve water and are excellent for fishing and that stripped areas can be converted into game refuges or parks. Perhaps the strongest argument of the coal strippers is that the value of the coal is far greater than the value of the land, since most of the land mined is of low cropping value.

The change in the attitude of the public toward strip mines cannot be attributed to the telling arguments of the mine operators but rather to the attitude of the Illinois Coal Strippers. This Association has voluntarily put into effect reclamation programs paralleling those of Pennsylvania, West

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Virginia, Indiana, and Ohio where such acts are enforced by law. For example, the Association has worked in conjunction with the State Department of Conservation, with the University of Illinois, and with other such organizations, in order to find the best methods of land restoration. At present, the Association and Agricultural Experiment Station of the University of Illinois are doing cooperative research into the "possibilities of revegetating and utilizing grasses and legumes on strip mined areas for stock range and other purposes." This project which began in February, 1947, is expected to cover a five year period. The results of the investigation should prove most valuable.

The planting of trees on spoil banks has also been carried out in a most systematic manner, usually in conjunction with the Carbondale branch of the Central States Forest Experiment Station. Experiments are continually being made to determine the most suitable types of trees for foresting the spoil banks. It has been found that certain trees are very adaptable to the high ridges while others grow better in the valleys. The present trend is to plant a variety of trees, since uniform plantings are more likely to be destroyed by disease or insects.

One of the early experiments in forestation was made by a large mining company in Fulton, Illinois, in 1930-33. In this project, the survival ratios for various trees were: black locust 80%; red pine 70%; and Scotch pine 60%. Although black locust is not so widely used as in the past, it is still used in mixtures with other hardwood species.

A report of the Illinois Coal Stripper, covering a period from January 1, 1939 to January 1, 1950 inclusive, lists 26,849 acres of land improved out of a total of 46,703 acres stripped. By the end of 1949, 11,867,950 trees had been planted on 11,246 acres of land, and stock range had been made from 15,603 acres. In addition to the land reclaimed by definite programs, 2,235 acres were reported by the United States Forest Service as naturally reforested as of 1946 and there were 2,500 acres of mine lakes.

The possibilities of reclaiming stripped land for park areas are demonstrated by the Du Quoin Fair Grounds. Many Southern Illinoisans point with pride to these beautiful grounds but too few people realize that part of this land has been converted from spoil banks. Du Quoin, Illinois, is not the only community that has benefited by such recreational areas. Frequently, the mine companies stock lakes with fish and build parks which are open to mine employees and to the public. In Pennsylvania where local governments usually regulated a strip-mining prior to the passage of state regulatory laws, many communities established parks. An outstanding example of community development is the park built by Grove City, Pennsylvania, in 1932, on 225 acres of stripped land, a park comparing in beauty with the one at Du Quoin.

In Illinois, the stripped lands are owned for the most part by the mine operators, less than 5% being stripped on a royalty or lease basis. According to A. J. Christiansen, secretary-treasurer of the Illinois Coal Stripper Association, the mine oper-



**Southwestern Illinois Coal Company's tipple.**  
Peithman Photo

ators retain ownership of this land because they believe it can be converted into valuable property capable of producing either forest or grass crops.

Many companies have set up their own farms in view of raising live stock. At the present, there are seven experimental plots on strip-mines in Southern Illinois—The Sahara in Saline county, the Delta in Williamson County, the Truax-Traer in Jackson county, the United and Pyramid in Perry County, the Southwestern in Randolph County, and the Midwest Radiant and Seminole in St. Clair County. In addition, some of the individual coal companies graze live stock on their land and in some other instances officers of the companies are operating live stock farms on the spoil banks and adjacent lands. The fact that coal operators prefer to retain the stripped land and pay taxes on it rather than sell certainly should stand as proof that stripped land is not "value-less."

Illinois has long been one of the leading coal producing states. In fact, it was in this state that the first discovery of coal was recorded, a discovery made by Pere Marquette in 1673 in LaSalle County. For a number of years, Illinois led in the production of coal by stripping but was surpassed by Pennsylvania in 1944, a state which is now far in the lead. Today, Illinois ranks fourth both in total production of coal and in the production of stripped coal. It is the only strip-mining state where reclamation is carried out on a voluntary basis. As strip mining has played an important part in keeping Pennsylvania the leading coal-producing state, it has also helped Illinois retain her high rank. Ever-expanding spoil banks, the man-made mountains of Southern Illinois, remind us that coal is still king in this state.

**The big shovel in operation.**

Peithman Photo



# Little Egypt After 57 Years

(David V. Felts in the Decatur Herald,  
December 30, 1950)

More than a half-century ago a Syrian dancer billed as "Little Egypt" did a dance on the Midway of the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, a "Hootchy-Kootchy" that "shocked the women and delighted the men."

Since 1893, the American mind has broadened. Feminine legs have been undraped, the torso has been unveiled almost completely and the rhumba is accepted generally as a ballroom dance.

But the Hollywood producers of a film celebrating "Little Egypt," and her dance as it is reputed to have been performed in 1893, are having trouble with the Hays office—now the Johnson office—which guards film morals.

Rhonda Fleming, who does the dance in the film, is permitted to do only half a circuit in the burlesque figure known as a "grind," and she must not bare her umbilicus.

Our sire was among those present at the World's Columbian Exposition. He described to us many of the wonders he saw on that memorable trip from the old Lake Creek farm to the great city. But he never mentioned "Little Egypt." He kept detailed notes on his visit to the exposition in one of a series of little red leather-bound books which are now stored away in a trunk. Someday we must examine the report for 1893. We hope he saw "Little Egypt."

Except for the reputation of the dancer at the Chicago fair of 1893, residents of the lower tiers of counties in Illinois might not object to the designation of "Little Egypt" for their part of the state.

But because of the dance she did, most older Egyptians prefer "Egypt," with no adjective even though the diminutive is employed as a term of affection.

A persistent foe of "Little" in the Egyptian reference was the late Will Griffith, founder of the Greater Egypt Association.

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# EGYPTORIALS

## HISTORY VISUALIZED

"Forever This Land," a historical play, will be given nightly, except Mondays, at New Salem State Park, from June 30 through August 25.

Miss Mary Shirding, chairman of the "Forever This Land" committee, said the drama is being sponsored by the New Salem Lincoln League, a non-profit organization which initiated the rebuilding of New Salem, Illinois.

The play was written by Kermit Hunter, author of the successful outdoor drama about the Cherokee Indians, "Unto These Hills," which is presented annually in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park at Cherokee, North Carolina. He is a graduate of Ohio University and received his Master's degree from the University of North Carolina.

Miss Shirding said that authentic music, dances, and costumes are being used to recreate the pioneer days in all their true vigor and color. Samuel Seldon, the director, has written several books on acting and play production and now is director of dramatics at the University of North Carolina.

"Forever This Land" covers the period from the building of the Rutledge-Cameron grist mill, in the spring of 1829, through the ten years until the village was abandoned. Lincoln lived there from 1831 to 1837.

More than fifty players are in the cast. Funds to establish the play as an annual event have been raised through public subscription. The amphitheater will accommodate some 3,000 persons.

New Salem State Park is a village completely restored to the period when it was Lincoln's home. It is located two miles south of Petersburg, and twenty miles northwest of Springfield.

"Unto These Hills" drew 110,000 visitors to Cherokee, North Carolina, in its first season, last summer. The public response will doubtless be greater for the Lincoln story. What can we do with a similar idea? Let it be "Egypt, the Mother of Illinois and How She Got Her Name." We have our own talent at Southern Illinois University, capable of the writing, directing, and acting. The natural stage of "Hawk's Cave" in Ferne Clyffe State Park or the westward slope from the Lodge at Giant City State Park would make an ideal place to present such a drama.

## "TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY," TOO GOOD TO IGNORE

Four books, in the writing of which Dr. Thomas F. Barton collaborated, recently came to the editor's desk. Dr. Barton, former head of the Geography and Geology Department of Southern Illinois University and now Educational Geographer, Indiana University, is co-author with Professor Sidman Poole, Chairman of the School of Geography, University of Virginia; Clara Belle Baker, Director, Demonstration Schools, National College of Education, Evanston; and Irving Robert Melbo, Professor of Education, Southern California University.

The first three books are a part of the *Geography*

*Foundation Series*, a new and different approach to teaching geography to children of the first, second, and third grades. The authors have prepared the *Geography Foundation Series* to provide readiness in geography for beginners, to give foundational reading and study materials in geography. These three books will answer many questions for young inquiring minds.

The content of all three books is built around typical experiences of typical children. The first book, *Through the Day*, presents situations through spring and summer. The second book, *From Season to Season*, presents situations existing consecutively through the four seasons of the year. The third book, *In Country and City*, presents situations drawn from rural and city life. All are delightfully illustrated, but the colors are not well registered, giving a somewhat blurred effect which children will notice and object to.

These books ready youngsters for the new fourth grade geography prepared by Barton, Poole, and Melbo, called *The World About Us*. This new and different text book has a vital approach to the subject that should make geography intensely interesting to a fourth grader. He will not lose his bearings as he is expected to move mentally over the earth. It helps him to expand his horizon rather than to go entirely out of his horizon. It begins by exploring four different regions of his own country and enables him to be prepared for a broader outlook on the world. It is well illustrated with photographs and colored maps.

Elementary teachers will certainly welcome these four books published by Bobbs-Merrill, Indianapolis, Indiana.

At last! A comprehensive "History of Belleville, Illinois, has been written by Alvin L. Nebelsick, head of the Department of Social Studies, Belleville High School and Junior College. "The Belleville Blue Book" may now take its place beside the *Illinois Blue Book*. It is packed with local information. Seven years of research and work have gone into its preparation.

If the people of a community understand its history, they will take pleasure in living in it. Such pride is the basis of the natural patriotism we are anxious to see fostered.

This book gives valuable lists of early American settlers, German naturalizations from 1836 through 1884, German pioneers of later date, early physicians, etc.

The *History of Belleville* is indexed. Published by Record, Belleville, Illinois. \$5.00.

William U. Halbert

On page 151, Nebelsick claims the Belleville Public Library to be the oldest in Illinois. Will he please read pages 246-248, Illinois State Historical Journal, Volume VI, Number 2. Albion's library was established in 1818, Edwardsville's in November 1819, and Kaskaskia's in November 1826. (Editor's note.)



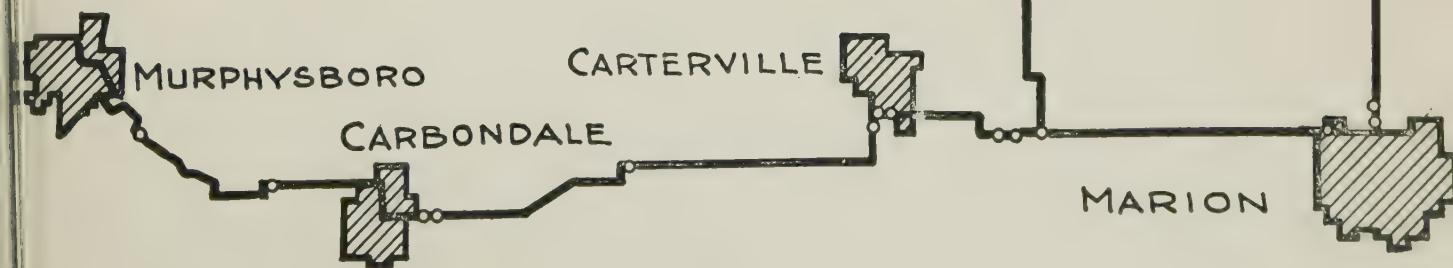
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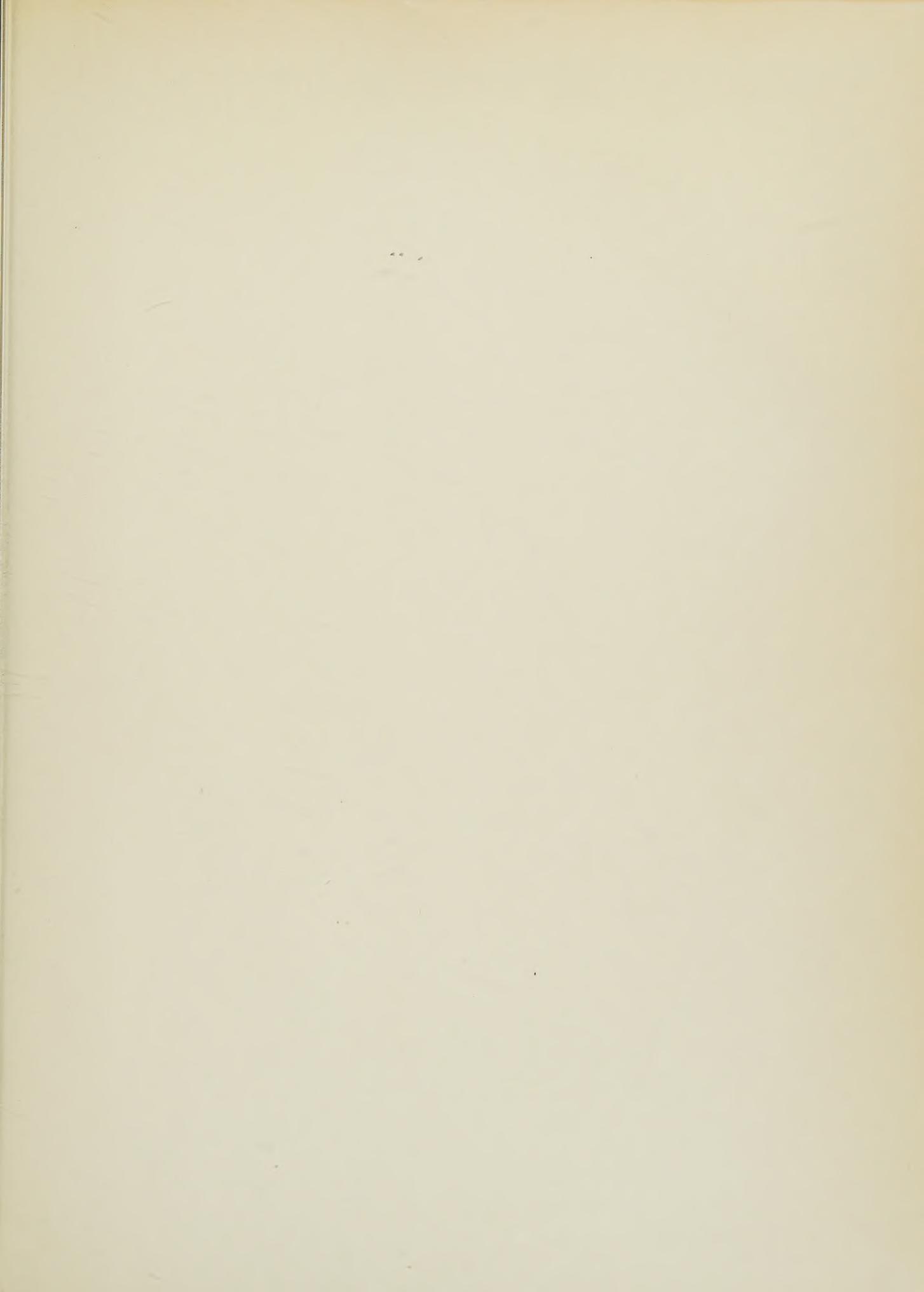
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